

IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018 sets records, debuts new logo

ORLANDO — The **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** (IAAPA) capped its centennial year in grand fashion as its annual trade show became the organization's largest and best-attended ever.

IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018, which ran Nov. 12-16, drew a record 42,000 registered attractions industry professionals. The event covered 600,375 net square feet at the **Orange County Convention Center**, where 1,151 companies displayed innovative new products and services.

"There is no better way to celebrate IAAPA's centennial anniversary than with a remarkable and record-breaking Expo," said **Hal McEvoy**, IAAPA president and CEO. "IAAPA's mission is to connect attractions professionals with each other and with new and innovative ideas. All that and much more happened in Orlando."

Aside from the crowd on the trade show floor, 15,128 people participated in 149 education experiences, which included multiple-day institutes and symposia, behind-the-scenes tours of area attractions, roundtable discussions and constituency lunches.

Expo participants also raised approximately \$120,000 for **Give Kids the World** through a golf tournament, a motorcycle ride, a fun run and walk, individual and corporate donations, and a hole-in-one challenge. IAAPA members raised approximately \$50,000 for the **IAAPA Foundation** through a silent auction, benefiting programs that support tomorrow's industry leaders and the **Al Weber Scholarship Fund**.

IAAPA revealed a new logo (shown below) at the Kickoff Event as part of a branding initiative designed to launch the organization's next 100 years. Reflecting the energy and diversity of IAAPA's global membership, its official debut was Jan. 1.

•iaapa.org



Northern Calif. fairgrounds activated by American Red Cross in wildfires

Evacuees find shelter, food during state's deadliest blazes

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA — Several county fairs in northern California canceled regular business during the second week of November and began operating in an entirely different capacity as official **American Red Cross** shelters.

The Red Cross activated five county fairgrounds closest to a woodland fire that reportedly began Nov. 8 near Camp Fire Road in Butte County, resulting in its designation as the Camp Fire. Fueled by dry conditions and fanned by strong winds, the outbreak spread rapidly and massively, becoming the deadliest wildfire in the state's history.

By the time *Amusement Today* went to press, 85 were confirmed dead in the disaster, which burned more than 150,000 acres and destroyed more than 18,000 structures, including hundreds of homes in Paradise, Calif. The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

A concurrent wildfire in Greater Los Angeles called the Woolsey Fire added to the total losses in the state, killing three, burning just under 100,000 acres and destroying almost 1,500 structures.

The Northern California fairgrounds activated by the Red Cross are home to the **Butte**



A wildfire that started Nov. 8 in California's Butte County devastated neighborhoods and killed dozens. Several fairgrounds, including the home of the Silver Dollar Fair in Chico (shown below), served as evacuation centers.

COURTESY GLENN COUNTY FAIR & FAIRGROUNDS (FIRE); AMERICAN RED CROSS/GOLD COUNTRY REGION



County Fair, Gridley; **Yuba-Sutter County Fair**, Yuba City; **Glenn County Fair**, Orland; **Plumas-Sierra County Fair**, Quincy; and **Silver Dollar Fair**, Chico. The fairs played a significant role in the response.

"The operation here has been more like a mini-fair for us in the way in which it was operated," said **Melissa Fornof**, exhibit representative of the Silver Dollar Fair.

At the height of the emergency, the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds housed some 6,000 firefighters and search-and-rescue team members from across the U.S. It was backed by the **California Conservation Corps**, a state government department that falls under the **California Resources Agency**.

"They brought in their own

▶ See **WILDFIRES**, page 4

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AMUSEMENT VIEWS

AT NOTEBOOK: Tim Baldwin, tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

What's refreshed is new again



Baldwin

While the old adage, "What's old is new again," quite often refers to style and trends, there is something very encouraging when a park reinvests in an established — or even aging — attraction to keep it not only running but give it new life.

Europa-Park comes to mind. In 2018, its big investment was a major overhaul of its indoor EuroSat coaster, but management didn't stop there. Two other attractions, a dated dark ride and a children's outdoor electric car ride, got a wonderful refresh. Where once was a tired dark ride about the age of dinosaurs is now a delightfully rethemed adventure called Madame Freudenriech — Curiosités, about an elderly woman raising dinosaurs in her backyard. Elsewhere in the park, a children's simple electric rail outdoor ride has had scenes and sets added along the way and now tells another children's story, Jim Button — Journey Through Morrowland.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas introduced a first-of-its-kind single-rail roller coaster, Wonder Woman Steel Lasso Coaster, but in so doing had to relocate the park's carousel. The move prompted a total revamp of a sleepy area of the park and refurbishment of the carousel, along with added embellishments to the area that truly enhance its atmosphere. With the release of an older IP theme for its dark ride, instead of simply retiring the attraction, the park opted to exercise some creativity and keep it by adding an original storyline. The in-house team came up with the designs and built many sets themselves, reworking the ride into Pirates of the Deep Sea.

In the past, Schlitterbahn took an unpopular lazy river and, with moderate expense, turned it into a marketable powerhouse called Congo River Expedition by adding themed scenes. And this summer, Knott's Berry Farm will debut Calico River Rapids — a refresh, accomplished through a themed overlay and animatronics, that will add new guest appeal and marketability to a 30-year-old rapids ride. (See page 11.)

In years when parks can't afford to install a massive new ride, there are certainly opportunities to upgrade an existing attraction — a train, a car ride, a log flume — and add promotional clout while invigorating an old favorite for generations to come. It's an idea worth pondering when taking a daily stroll through the park.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



GUEST OPINION: Erik H. Beard, Managing Member / Gen. Counsel, International Ride Training

Guest engagement as a safety tool

If you've flown on an airline recently, you have surely noticed a change in many of the pre-flight safety announcements. Mostly gone are the days of a flight attendant standing at the front of the cabin making monotone announcements about emergency exits, floor lighting and seat belt usage. Instead, airlines have turned to sophisticated, energetic and, yes, even entertaining videos to convey safety information to passengers.

Why? Because the airline industry has figured out that engaging passengers maximizes the likelihood that they will pay attention to this information. Wouldn't that also be the case at an amusement ride?

Unfortunately, guest engagement in the attractions industry is often thought of only as a guest service issue. Our employees are trained to be nice to our guests, to anticipate their needs and to ensure that they feel welcome at our facilities. All of that is important, but engagement goes deeper. Just as on an airplane, guests who feel engaged are more likely to listen to safety spiels, onboard instructions



Beard

and rider warnings. Beyond simple warm, fuzzy feelings, engagement is about making our guests safer.

How do we improve guest engagement? Obviously, not every park can take a cue from the airlines and show entertaining videos at every ride location. But there are other things that can be done, such as infusing automatic spiels with more entertaining and lively instructions to cut through the noise on ride platforms. Train the ride operators not only what to say, but how to say it in an interesting manner. And within reason, give ride operators freedom to infuse their spiels with their personalities so that not every operator sounds the same — even as the content of the information remains consistent. Most importantly, expect, don't just encourage, operators to speak to guests one-on-one by treating engagement the same as other safety policies from a management perspective.

Safety is as important in our industry as it is in aviation. So why not borrow what's working for the airlines to enhance safety on our attractions?

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives

2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Pete Barto, S&S Worldwide, Inc.

Pete Barto has a rare combination of experience, having worked for the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions**, a ride manufacturer and an amusement park — some might say the trifecta of the business. As director of sales for **S&S Worldwide, Inc.**, of North Logan, Utah, Barto has found his marketing groove and enjoys strategic planning, following trends and taking an extra-personable approach to developing industry relationships. An avid golfer, he also loves ice hockey and hanging out with his family and friends.

Number of years in the industry: 15

Best thing about the industry: That's easy... the people. The people in this industry are so passionate and proud of their parks and products.

Favorite amusement park ride:

I like coasters, but I never considered myself a coaster enthusiast. I am a park enthusiast and a big fan of the classic rides. I love the old-fashioned, bang-through-the-door dark ride. I never pass up a chance to ride a Whip, and I have a deep appreciation for carousels. But if I need to pick one particular ride, I would probably pick the Coal Cracker Flume Ride at **Hersheypark** in Hershey, Pa. It has been my favorite ride since age four.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...

Doing something I didn't enjoy. It took me almost 10 years of feeling unfulfilled before I stumbled into this industry. My retirement plan is to be a greeter at a park!

Biggest challenge facing our industry:

I am not sure if I would consider it a challenge as much as a demand, but I feel that safety will always be our biggest challenge.

The thing I like most about amusement / water park season is...

That special feeling I get as I drive up to a park and see the skyline of the park's rides. It always brings me back to my childhood and the anticipation of what I am going to ride first (even if the park is closed).

Favorite pizza topping: Pepperoni (and extra cheese).

In which grocery store aisle would we most likely find you? Cheese.

The book I am reading right now is... What is a book?

It's January! My New Year's resolution is... Try to relax more.

The best fast food is... In-N-Out Burger.



Whether fulfilling his role as S&S Worldwide's director of sales or raising the "bar" for park enthusiasm (as he is here), **Pete Barto is all about the attractions industry.** COURTESY PETE BARTO

Biggest pet peeve: Rude people. I have no place for them in my life.

The sport I enjoy playing the most is...

Golf. I have been addicted to it since age nine. Not sure why I am not better!

All-time favorite sitcom: *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* or *Cheers*.

Of the Seven Wonders of the World, the one I would most like to see is...

The World's Largest Cheese Wheel!

Favorite Michael Jackson song:

"Thriller" ... just ask me to do the dance.

I get most news from... The internet.

On a long flight, I... Watch TV and eat. I have difficulty sleeping on planes (which is not good for someone in my profession).

My next vacation will be... Napa Valley. I have always wanted to go to Wine Country.

Favorite after-dinner drink: Ketel One and soda with two limes.

On Sunday morning, I usually... Good weather — play golf. Bad weather — go to church.

If my life was a TV show, it would be called... "Easy Like Sunday Morning." That has always been my mantra.

The person who makes me laugh the most is... My friends. I surround myself with people that keep things light. I love to laugh.

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

Meeting the music makers at IAFE

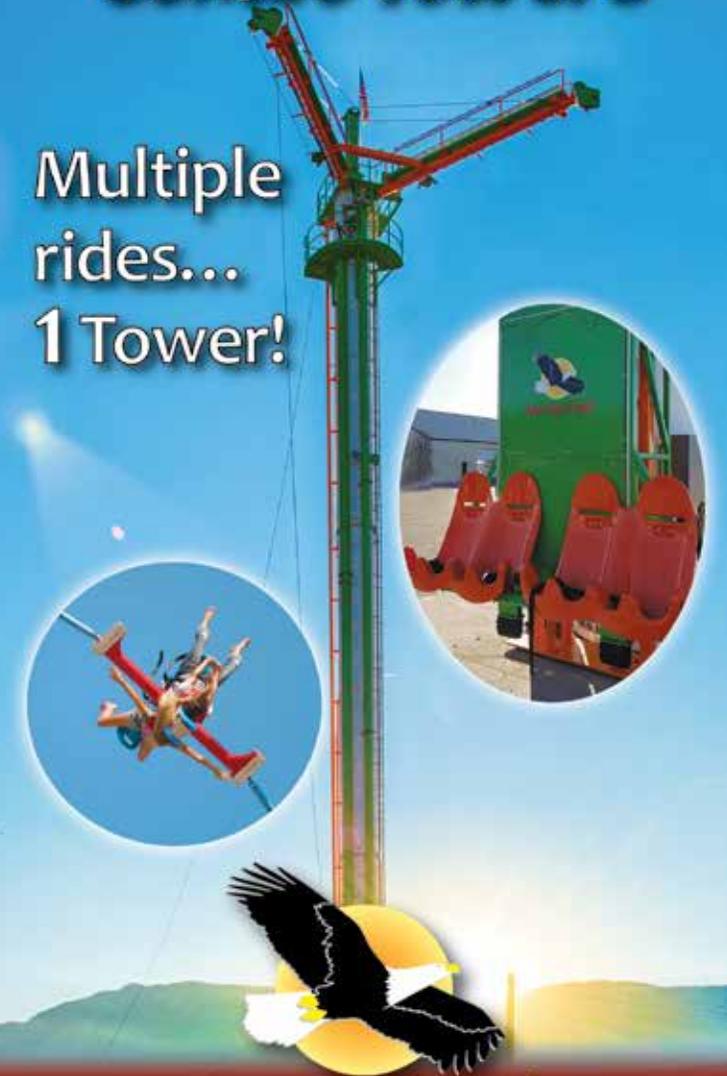


SAN ANTONIO, Texas — After nearly 50 years in Las Vegas, the annual convention of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) has relocated to San Antonio. Famed rock 'n' roll singer and dancer Chubby Checker, who was on hand to promote his agency, Twisted Booking, run by The Shelly Field Organization, sampled a recent issue of AT shared by reporter B. Derek Shaw (right). Post-happy hour, traditional country music singer Tony Jackson, a former Marine, chatted with AT publisher Gary Slade (left). Kudos to both of these talented artists for their success — and for contributing to the soundtrack of our lives.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW, GARY SLADE (RIGHT PHOTO)

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► WILDFIRES

Continued from page 1

housing items, showers, food and equipment," Fornof said. "Our staff was onsite to provide operational aid and maintenance."

At the start of December, with the fire under control and the firefighters depart from the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, area residents who were left permanently or temporarily homeless transitioned to the Chico location from other shelters as the Red Cross began consolidation. The organization also provided transportation. Fornof expected about 800 evacuees on the grounds during the first week of December.

The Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Fornof noted, has been called upon several times previously in emergency situations.

According to **Margaret Mohr**, deputy general manager of marketing at the **California State Fair** in Sacramento, pressing fairgrounds into this type of service is not unusual when the need arises. Although her fair did not serve as an active shelter in this emergency, she said the site has been activated for this purpose twice in the last

two years.

In January 2017, the location became a Red Cross shelter when the Oroville Dam experienced a spillway failure. "We had about 150,000 evacuees on the grounds," Mohr said.

In October 2017, during wildfires in Sonoma and Napa counties, the grounds of the California State Fair served as a shelter for the Red Cross Emergency Transient Center, housing 100-150 firefighters.

"They would go out and fight the fire during the day and then come back here at night," Mohr said. "We had all their equipment here as well."

Mohr pointed out that it is a huge undertaking for fairgrounds and other evacuation sites to become a shelter of any kind. Items such as bedding, showers, portable toilets and food supply vehicles have to be brought to the grounds. Staff and volunteers must handle matters including the registration of evacuees, providing health care, locating family members and trying to find additional long-term assistance.

"It is very crucial for the management of the building to be onsite, as well as security and chief of plant," Mohr said. "The Red Cross is amazing in what

they can pull together in such short time."

Shelters that accept evacuated animals, she noted, have special considerations and needs. During the Camp Fire, the California State Fair was able to supply the Butte County Fair with additional fencing for large animals.

Ken Anater of the **California Department of Food and Agriculture** said emergency aid is usually initiated at the local level, with evacuation sites established closest to the impacted areas and then expanding when needed. His department works to shelter animals during emergencies.

The Camp Fire disaster, Anater acknowledged, was unique and presented "challenges on a scale like we have never seen before." They included the round-the-clock efforts of the strategic command center for the fire in Sacramento.

Officials also noted the valuable role social media played in the disaster response. The Red Cross, government entities and several fairgrounds continuously posted information and updates regarding evacuation sites, donations and the firefighters' progress.

• redcross.org/goldcountry

Disney donates \$500,000 to support firefighters, victims

BURBANK, Calif. — In early December, **The Walt Disney Co.** committed \$500,000 to support relief and recovery efforts in response to the California wildfires.

Disney split the donation between the **Wildfire Relief Fund**, which is administered by the **California Community Foundation** and supports intermediate and long-term recovery efforts, as well as preparedness; and the **California Fire Foundation**, which provides emotional and financial assistance to firefighters, their families and those who live in the impacted communities.

"The firefighters are true heroes, and we honor their tireless commitment as they continue to battle these devastating wildfires," said **Bob Iger**, Disney chairman and CEO. "Our hearts go out to the families and communities that have been so severely affected."



Resources at the Red Cross evacuation center at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds in Chico, Calif., included food supply vehicles, an animal shelter, health services, free Verizon Wi-Fi and laundry facilities.

COURTESY AMERICAN RED CROSS/GOLD COUNTRY REGION

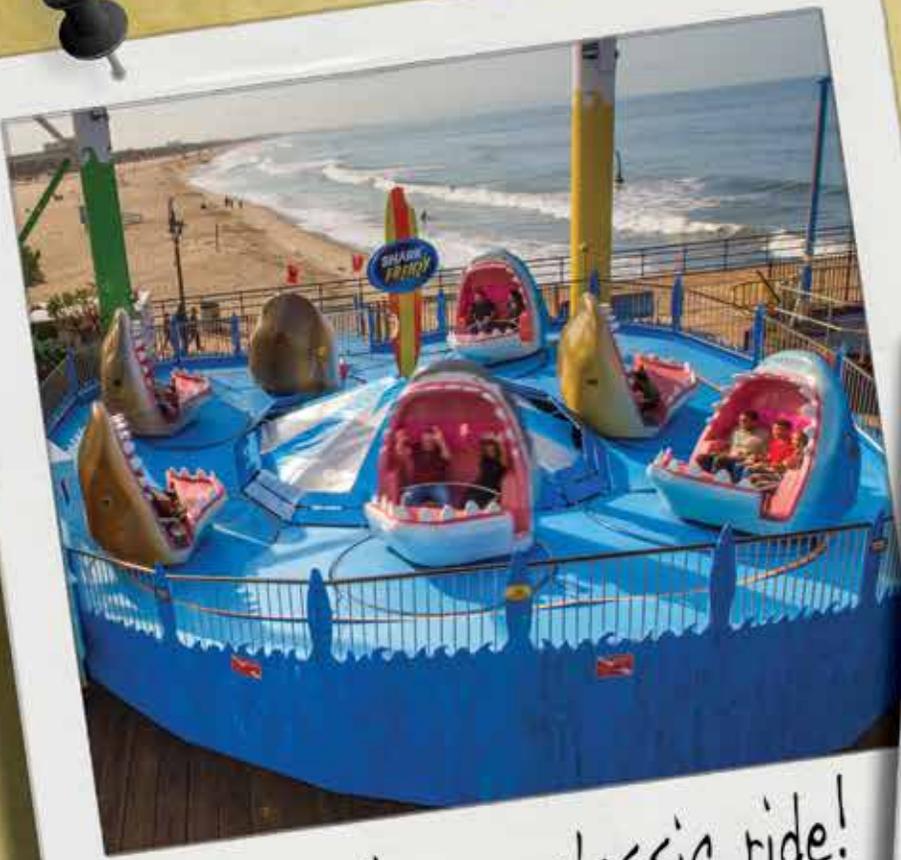


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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► MGM's Vegas resorts offer cutting-edge attractions — page 10 / IAFE lands in San Antonio — page 16

First-of-its-kind attraction at sea

Carnival Cruise Line and Maurer partner for coaster on a cruise ship

AT: Tim Baldwin
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MIAMI, Fla. — It was bound to happen eventually. Cruise ships have added all sorts of amusement industry attractions as of late. Companies continue to differentiate themselves from the rest of the market by adding the latest waterslides, interactive play structures and observation attractions. But a roller coaster onboard? That's new.

The newly named *Mardi Gras* is going to be a huge deal when she sets sail in 2020. The name not only pays homage to Carnival Cruises' first ship in 1972, but the company believes the name suggests innovation in cruising circles. The new ship will also be the first to feature a roller coaster-style attraction at sea. Bolt: Ultimate Sea Coaster is the name of the new Spike Coaster supplied by Maurer Rides of Munich, Germany.

The Spike Coaster system puts the power in the hands of the rider. With handlebars complementing the motorcycle-style seating, riders are in control of the speed.

"One of the things we like to look at is 'What can we do on the ship that is completely unexpected and exciting.' We like things that make our ships shine," said

Positioned on the uppermost aft deck, the roller coaster wraps around the ship's funnel. COURTESY CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES



Glenn Aprile, director of innovation, Carnival Cruises. "Creating an experience you might expect on land but is a 'wow' on a ship makes the ship more marketable. When guests are deciding on which ship or cruise they want to take, the features on the ship play a part of that."

When positioned on the top deck, the track will rise 170 feet above the surface of the water.

"We started [discussions]

about two years ago," said Steve Boney, executive business development, Maurer Rides. "With a ship, this opens up a new market — it's something that's never been done. We've spent a lot of time technically. With a ship, there are space limitations and weight limitations. We had to address that from the very beginning. That wasn't a big challenge, but we still had to cross that hurdle. The Spike system is the lightest coaster available."

Bolt's 720-plus feet of track will soar above spectators and encircle the ship's funnel.

"A ship is elegant. You had to make sure it didn't look like Medusa's hair," laughed Boney. "We had to work with the design to make sure we were keeping with Carnival's brand."

"Roller coasters are typically loud on land, which in some ways is part of the excitement, but we were attracted to this particular product because it is very quiet," said Aprile. "On a ship you will have this roller coaster passing by not too far from an area where people will be lounging by a pool. It wouldn't be very therapeutic to have a super loud roller coaster clamoring overhead while you're

Carnival's Glenn Aprile stands near a Spike coaster vehicle at the Maurer Rides booth at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018. AT/TIM BALDWIN



relaxing reading a book."

Riders straddle motor cycle seats. The vehicle is positioned around rails that are built on a vertical plane. From the rider's point of view, it would appear to be a single rail.

One of the unique cool factors of a coaster on a ship is the changing views.

"Every day, the view from the coaster changes," said Boney. "One day you could be riding looking at New York City's harbor and another day looking at Miami's harbor. You never do that with a regular roller coaster. All from 170 feet up in the air."

Throughput was a consideration, but no target was established from Carnival. The ship is expected to transport approximately 5,200 guests. There will be 19 passenger decks.

The speed, approaching 40 mph, creates 1.2 Gs of acceleration. "That's twice that of a Porsche 911," said Boney.

Mardi Gras will also boast being the greenest cruise ship in North America by being powered by clean-burning liquified natural gas. The ship is 1,130 feet long.

Other amenities of the ship are yet to be released.

Carnival cruises are centered around fun. The company states when its first ship was launched in 1972, a goal was to make cruises "less stuffy."

The ship is currently under construction in Finland. Being 30 percent larger than the company's biggest ship to date, it will be the largest in the fleet. *Mardi Gras* will set sail from Port Canaveral in 2020.



While traveling aboard Bolt, riders will enjoy views of the sea or a destination harbor from more than 170 feet above sea level. COURTESY CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES

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NEAAPA at IAAPA

New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions gathers in Orlando

Past presidents unite at luncheon



The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) held its annual luncheon and business meeting in November during the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo in Orlando. Several past NEAAPA presidents attended, included (from the left) Jason Freeman, Six Flags Entertainment Corp.; Kevin Naughton, Naughton Insurance, Inc., Providence, R.I.; George Frantzis II, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn.; Carl Berni, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Dave Sugrue, Ocean Beach Park, New London, Conn.; David Daly, Daly Cavanaugh, LLP, Wellesley, Mass.; and Greg Chiecko, Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass. COURTESY NEAAPA

Morrow Dinner fetes 'Mr. NEAAPA'



IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018 was the backdrop for NEAAPA's annual Tom Morrow Dinner & IAAPA Social, which took place at Maggiano's Little Italy in Orlando and was sponsored by a number of NEAAPA members. The dinner honors the late Tom Morrow, a past NEAAPA president and operations manager at Canobie Lake Park in Salem, N.H., who became affectionately known as "Mr. NEAAPA" for his years of dedication to the association. A record turnout of 140 attended the 2018 event. Attending sponsors were (from left) Michael Marra-Powers, Premier Rides; Chris Bourgeois, Rhode Island Novelty; Christian Gainer, Santa's Village; Michael Mancini, Neptune-Benson / Evoqua; Joanna Guy, Premier Rides; Michael Amaro, IALDA; Tim Timco, S&S Worldwide; Sara Seay, Premier Rides; Tom Tessitore, National Ticket; Dorothy Lewis, XpressPosts.com; Anthony Berni III, Canobie Lake Park; Kaz Ulaky, Canobie Lake Park; Ed Reeder, Uncommon USA; and Gary Slade, *Amusement Today*. COURTESY NEAAPA

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MGM's Las Vegas resorts offer attractions on the cutting edge

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS — It's been 16 years since the closure of **MGM Grand Adventures**, a 33-acre theme park adjoining the **MGM Grand** hotel and casino. An oasis of innovative family fun in a land of smoky gambling halls, it enjoyed some initial popularity but, after a decade of operation, never generated enough profit to justify the value of its real estate.

Not quite forgetting its earlier foray into Sin City amusements, **MGM Resorts Intl.** today is among several major Strip resort operators keeping their properties stocked with more traditional forms of fun — albeit with the latest high-tech thrills. The company has attractions spread across its Las Vegas portfolio, including virtual reality, 4D theaters and arcades opened or upgraded over the last two years.

At MGM's **New York-New York Hotel & Casino**, the Big Apple Roller Coaster, a 4,777-foot-long **Togo** steel looping coaster that opened with the resort in 1997, added



Amusement technology is a highlight at MGM's resorts, thanks in part to VR attractions such as **The Big Apple Coaster** at **New York-New York** (far left) and **Engineerium** and **Singularity** at the **MGM Grand**. COURTESY MGM RESORTS INTL.

a virtual reality option in early 2018 called **The Big Apple Coaster Virtual Reality (VR) Experience**. The overlay, created by **VR Coaster**, currently offers a choice of two computer-generated immersive adventures: one set in Las Vegas and its desert environs and the other unfolding in midtown Manhattan.

The former begins as the rider, outfitted with a VR headset, assumes the role of a scientist in pursuit of an alien that has escaped from an Area 51-inspired research facility. The chase soars above the

Nevada desert and over the Las Vegas Strip, with plenty of swooping, inverting action coordinated with the coaster's undulations. The second adventure, set in the "real" New York, is a more impressive affair involving giant monsters rampaging through the city streets.

The VR hookup inside the coaster car is swift and efficient once the headset is in place. But the ride's intensity had this reporter retightening the headset's adjustment knob several times during the journey. Despite that distraction, and a

bit of queasiness from doing both adventures back-to-back, the experience delivered some edge, worthwhile thrills.

VR in its purest interactive form is offered just across the Strip at the flagship **MGM Grand**. The hotel's hip **Level Up** arcade, which includes a bar and an assortment of retro and newer games, is home to a 2,000-square-foot, free-roaming VR arena powered by **Zero Latency**. Up to eight players can participate in their choice of three 30-minute experiences that take place in a completely digital universe.

Two very different offerings here are standouts.

Engineerium, set in a fantastical world populated by flying whales, giant parrots and other weird and colorful creatures, is a pseudo-puzzle game that challenges participants to move through a maze suspended in midair — stepping from one floating stone walkway to another. **Singularity**, a combat scenario, finds players trapped in a military research space station under a relentless attack by robots.

► See MGM, page 11

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MGM's *Excalibur* and *Circus Circus Adventuredome* properties offer 4D theater experiences including short, action-packed movies based on the hit feature films *San Andreas* and *Ice Age*. COURTESY MGM RESORTS INTL.

►MGM

Continued from page 10

Both experiences include fully dimensional moments in which objects rendered as computer graphics can actually be touched, adding to the startling realism.

Those seeking immersive fun with less time / money investment and sensory overload can select from several 4D theater experiences created by **SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment** — located in the Fun Dungeon arcade at MGM's *Excalibur Hotel & Casino* and, farther north along the Strip, inside the five-acre *Adventuredome* amusement park at MGM's *Circus Circus*.

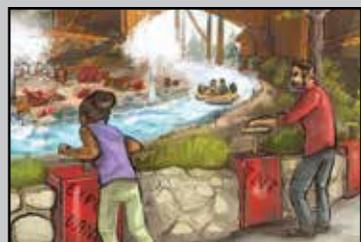
At *Excalibur*, the highlight

is *San Andreas 4D Experience*, a distillation of the hit 2015 earthquake disaster movie starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson to its most exciting action scenes — all enhanced by rumbling seats, explosive in-theater flashes, wind effects and sprays of water and "ash" made from ice particles. The latter effect is put to particularly good use during the *Adventuredome's Ice Age: No Time for Nuts 4D*, an experience inspired by the popular animated film franchise featuring the manic saber-toothed squirrel *Scrat* in a time-travel story, complete with blasts of cold air and "tickle" effects.

Visit MGM's website for more about the company's resort-based attractions.

• mgmresorts.com

New effects, animatronics, name for Knott's Berry Farm rapids ride



BUENA PARK, Calif.— *Bigfoot Rapids*, a fixture at Knott's Berry Farm for more than three decades, is undergoing an extensive retheming and adding an expedition storyline under a new name: *Calico River Rapids*. The attraction will take voyagers in six-person circular rafts on a search for new land through the outskirts of Calico, where they will encounter indigenous wildlife and whitewater thrills. New show scenes, interactive water effects, and an array of animatronic creatures and characters (supplied by longtime park collaborator **Garner Holt Productions**) are part of the fun. The surprise-filled reimagining of the 1987-built *Intamin* ride debuts this summer. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

Park Post-its



AT: Pam Sherborne

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According to **Vince Kadlubek**, CEO of **Meow Wolf's House of Eternal Return** in Santa Fe, New Mexico, two new complexes similar to the increasingly popular flagship venue will open in Las Vegas, Nev., and Denver, Colo., soon.

The Santa Fe location debuted in March 2016 as an immersive art installation filled with technology and fantastic, unexpected environments. The explorable, 20,000-square-foot space is a collaboration of the Meow Wolf art collective, which includes more than 100 local artists.

Housed in a former bowling alley that was purchased and renovated by author **George R.R. Martin** (best known for *A Song of Ice and Fire*, a series of fantasy novels adapted into the hit HBO TV series *Game of Thrones*), the Meow Wolf complex is a unique combination of children's museum, art gallery, jungle gym and fantasy novel. Through dozens of rooms, secret passages and interactive light and musical objects, visitors can spend hours investigating the mystery of the Selig family, who disappeared one night after conducting a forbidden experiment inside their Victorian mansion.

While providing a sophisticated artistic experience with narrative depth for adults, *House of Eternal Return* also contains plenty of fantasy and interactive elements appealing to all ages. The attraction is the subject of a new documentary, *Meow Wolf: Origin Story*, which traces the formation and work of the art collective and features a visual style inspired by the Santa Fe installation itself.

Walt Disney World is no longer the top themed attraction in the Sunshine State when it comes to social media reviews, according to a report in *Florida Today*. The **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** has surpassed it in positive online buzz.

With an aggregate rating of 4.7 out of five across several social media platforms, the complex also has moved above several other Orlando attractions in garnering visitor raves.

Recent and forthcoming additions at the Kennedy Space Center include a new, modernized look for "Main Street," the area between the Rocket Garden and Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit encompassing the gift shop and bus tours entrance; new concession stands that will feature more thematic elements, such as a redesigned Milky Way ice cream shop; and, by September, the display of the last United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, and additional plans are in the works to update exhibits at the Saturn V Center to celebrate the milestone.

The **Statue of Liberty's** original torch has been moved from storage at the base of the statue to its new home in the new **Statue of Liberty Museum**, set to open in May.

Visitors watched as the base and the flame of the 3,600-pound torch were trucked slowly and carefully to the museum construction site about 100 yards from the statue.

The original, illuminated torch was removed in 1984 because the **National Park Service** and the **Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation** determined that it was too badly damaged by leaking water to restore. A new, identical torch covered in 24-karat gold was installed in 1985 and the old one was placed in a museum in the statue's base.

The owners of a local skating rink in Leesburg, Fla., gained approval from city planners in November to build a 66,000-square-foot indoor and outdoor amusement attraction on 9.6 acres.

The **Christley** family has owned **Skate World** for 35 years. The new **Skate World Family Entertainment Center** will include a roller rink, a video arcade, an *Avatar*-themed laser tag arena, rock-climbing walls and "boutique bowling" lanes. Outside will be an 18-hole miniature golf course.

In addition, there will be a second floor with meeting and event rooms.

The center is expected to open in July. The family is selling the original Skate World building to **Beacon College** for the purpose of creating a student activities center.

Officials of the **Carnegie Science Center** in Pittsburgh, Pa., reopened the **Miniature Railroad & Village** to the public in late November with a new addition based on the cement houses in Donora, Pa., a town about 20 miles south of Pittsburgh.

The attraction's new historic model of "Cement City" is a collection of seven houses, one still under construction, with the town's residents outside hosting a block party. Cement City is an engineering feat by **Thomas Edison** that still stands.

Construction of the all-concrete homes began in 1916. They housed employees of the **American Steel and Wire Co.**

Andrew Spate, an exhibit technician, worked on the attraction's addition.

Currently anchored in the Maumee River, the **Tug Ohio** will become a part of the **National Museum of the Great Lakes** in Toledo, Ohio, after undergoing renovations this winter.

Guests were invited to see the 1903-built tugboat-turned-fireboat during one weekend before the work began in order to have a before-and-after perspective on the renovations.

Operated by the **Great Lakes Historical Society**, the National Museum of the Great Lakes is part of the the **Toledo Maritime Center**, a heritage location on the banks of the Maumee River on the city's east side.

The electric go-kart company **K1 Speed** is developing a new attraction that combines real karting with gameplay through the use of **Oculus Rift** VR headsets.

The concept finds go-kart racers wearing the headsets and navigating an actual track through virtual imagery. As the company describes on its website, the aim is to get beyond even the best motion simulators by delivering "an authentic racing experience complete with cornering g-forces and that instant 'push your back into the seat' torque" that electric motors provide.

K1 hopes to debut the attraction at its Torrance, Calif., track this year.

Mountaintop park turns to Poma again for transportation system

Glenwood Caverns installs new tram to accommodate crowds

AT: Tim Baldwin

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GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — There's nothing like the problem of being too successful. Such is the case of **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**, a theme park built on top of a mountain in the Rockies.

The idea started out small. **Steve Beckley** convinced his wife to buy Glenwood Caverns and begin cave tours in the mountains of Colorado in 1999. Bussing passengers to the top became limiting. To help accommodate more guests, Beckley purchased a cable car tram system from **Lietner-Poma** and installed it in 2003. This helped increase the capacity of customers that could visit the park. For a while.

Over the years, Beckley invested in unique attractions, many of which took advantage of the setting and the view that comes from being on the top of a mountain. The first alpine coaster in the U.S. (**Weigand**) arrived in 2005. The first **Soaring Eagle** zipline was installed to take advantage of the spectacular views, as was the dining deck of the Lookout Grille. Other rides such as a wagon-themed Ferris wheel and a swing ride offer scenic panoramas, and some even accentuate the fear factor by being placed at the edge of mountainous cliffs. Most rides fit in with a western town motif, none more so than the recent drop ride, the Haunted Mine Drop from Soaring Eagle. This attraction features dark ride-style theming in its storyline and plunges riders 110 feet into an underground tunnel in Iron Mountain. A storyline of ghostly miners adds to the fun, and the innovative attraction just recently took a marketing Brass Ring at the IAAPA Attractions Expo.

With all this fun, attendance naturally grew. Beckley noticed that even with the aerial tram, long lines were developing at the bottom just for people to purchase tickets and ride up. Something needed to change, and the decision to replace the tram was made.

"In perfect conditions



Steve Beckley

without wind, the tram handles about 300 people an hour. In the summertime we can have an hour-and-a-half wait just to get to our cash windows," Beckley said. "People come in and don't want to wait. This new tram system will accommodate about a thousand people an hour."

Beckley feels they will be able to accommodate close to four times as many people on the new tram currently being installed. The new tram will work hand in hand with safety as it can withstand stronger winds, has a higher capacity and doesn't have lightning issues.

Music on the Mountain is an event that can bring a thousand people to the top. Buses had to be utilized to alleviate the two-hour wait to get down the mountain. Beckley comments the bus rides are not for the faint of heart heading down the 3.5-mile mountainous road.

"There was nothing up here [when we bought the park] but a bunch of junk cars and they were storing computers in the cave. I told my wife we were going to buy it and do cave tours, and she was all for it," Beckley told *Amusement Today*. "The first day we opened, 500 people showed up, and then we needed to get more buses.

Four years later we put the tram in and we kept going from there."

The supplier of both the new and previous tram is Lietner-Poma. Beckley reported that the older tram has been sold and will be used elsewhere. In order to install the new tram, utilities had to be moved. All the water and natural gas lines had to be eliminated for the beefier new tram system; new lines were placed six feet below ground running a mile and a half up a 1,400-foot elevation gain. Beckley estimates the total investment in redoing the tram system to be around \$8 million, the park's biggest to date.

According to management, about 75 percent of the attendees purchase a ride wristband, but there are visitors who come up only for cave tours and a small amount of people who just ride up for the view.

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park operates daily through the end of October. Weekend operation typically begins for Winter on the Mountain where a million lights are in place for a different experience. This winter, the park is temporarily closed (beginning the end of October) while the new tram is installed. During the traditional winter months, festive decorations (through February) are the usual main draw, but a handful of rides are still in operation.

Even in slower months, Beckley finds the continuous operation beneficial. "Glenwood-Aspen-Vail is a high rent district. We have a one percent unemployment rate here. We do everything we can to keep



The previous tram took passengers up during the final week of its operation in October. The retired tram ran with 18 carriages in groups of three; the new system will have 44 cars. The mountaintop view (below) is a main draw for visitors. AT/TIM BALDWIN



good employees," he said. "Even when we lose money in the winter months, having those employees in March — which is a huge month — we just have to have that staff because we're busy."

Even with the park in shutdown for the tram installation, Beckley says all staff are retained and will be doing maintenance and cleaning work.

The new tram will

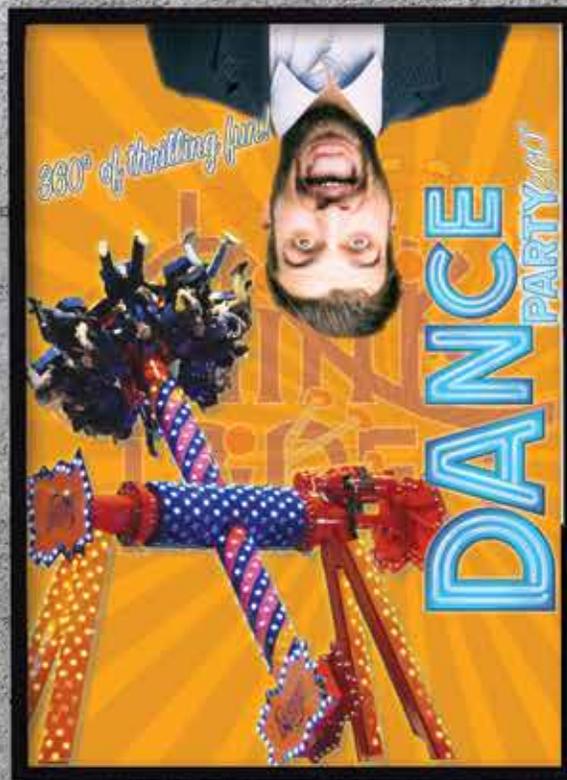
sport 44 cars compared to the previous 18. Also, the new cars will detach allowing for continual flow. With the previous system, the cars had to stop when a cluster at the bottom were being loaded and unloaded. The new tramway can also operate in stronger winds. With the retired system, the wind speed limit was 35 mph.

The park is expected to reopen March 15.



Some of the park staff posed for a farewell picture on the tram's last day of operation. COURTESY GLENWOOD CAVERNS

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The Tent Show camps out in Hershey; 600 attendees converge

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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HERSHEY, Pa. — Billed as the only yearly tent rental conference in North America, *The Tent Show*, as it is known, was set up in the parking areas adjacent to **Hershey Lodge and Convention Center** in early November.

The show, produced by the **Manufacturers and Tent Renters Association, Inc. (MATRA)**, had over 80 manufacturers exhibiting, showcasing more than 20 different commercial-grade tents (frame, pole and clear span) to their members and other attendees.

“Anything that goes underneath the tent, the exhibitors are here, from flooring, tables, air conditioning – anything like that,” said **Michael Tannen**, executive director of MATRA. “It’s four days of tent installs, education and a lot of networking. There’s a lot of new products, that [the manufacturers] always come out to support the industry.”

The second day, Tuesday, was education day. Eight different workshops



The Hershey Lodge and Convention Center parking lot was home to the 31st annual The Tent Show, held Nov. 5-8. At the top is Hershey Medical Center; to the right is part of Hershey Lodge. COURTESY NELSON GRANDCHAMP/MATRA

(two concurrently), geared toward the rental industry, were offered. Topics included tent teacher training, pole tent particulars, equipment care, along with sessions on cleaning, anchoring and storing. Over the past three years, attendee participation has increased from the

mid 400s to over 600. “New exhibitors are always finding out about us, wanting to be a part of it. It’s important now, to try and find room for them,” said Tannen.

Of special interest was an inflatable structure by European company **Evolution Dome**. This is the first time they have displayed in the United States. The 20-by-40-foot seamless, waterproof structure they brought had a high-wind rating of 55 mph and created unique event spaces.

This is the second time the show held in Hershey (the previous visit was in 2014). When asked about the hospitality provided in Chocolate Town, USA, Tannen said, “Just like they say, sweet! This whole area is full of nice people. They support us. They want us always coming back.”

Next year, The Tent Show travels south to Raleigh, N.C. — a first-time location for the 32nd annual event. “There are a lot of



requests for companies that are further south that really want to be a part of this and see our show,” said Tannen.

MATRA, based in Wilmington, Del., has a mission to uphold and promote the professionalism and integrity of the tent rental industry through education, training, networking and leadership development for the benefit of its members.

•matramembers.org

Signage at various locations throughout The Tent Show listed the convention schedule, educational sessions and upcoming MATRA events.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW

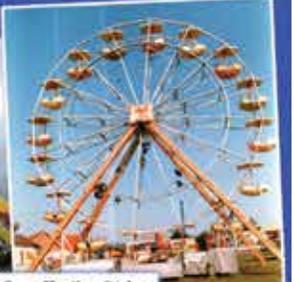


Michael Tannen (left), executive director of MATRA, and MATRA President George Smith of Mahaffey Fabric Structures, Memphis, Tenn., take a break from the show. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



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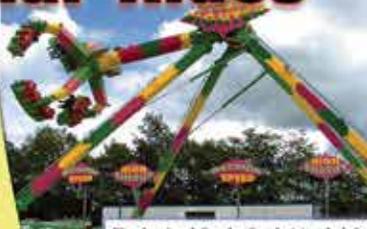
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MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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The **York Fair** in York, Pa., is moving its dates in 2020 to a late-July / early-August time frame with the hopes of generating more week-day attendance at a warmer time of year. It has been held the first Friday after Labor Day since 1942. Prior to that, the fair had been held in October. The **York County Agricultural Society** board of directors recently voted to change the event's 2020 run to July 24-Aug. 2.

"Regardless of the date for which the fair is held, the York Fair will continue to be America's first fair and will carry on many of the outstanding traditions such as agriculture and entertainment that the fair has built in its 253-year history," said **Bryan Blair**, COO, in a release.

Blair said a number of factors were considered in weighing the move, including fair trends, research, and discussions with participants, vendors, exhibitors and members. The 2019 fair will be held Sept. 6-15, with **Deggeller Attractions** providing several ride midways.

There's a change at the top for the **Rockingham County Fair**, Harrisonburg, Va. effective this month. **Rebecca Holloway** was named the new manager after 15 years of teaching agriculture for **Rockingham County Schools**. Holloway grew up showing livestock at the fair and continued to volunteer while she was a student at **Virginia Tech**.

"We had some ideas of having events different times throughout the year, just in support of the Rockingham County Fair and the events we hold during the fair week," Holloway told **WHVS-TV**. "But our main event of the year is the Rockingham County Fair week. That's busy, and you know a lot of things go on to make that fair work."

The 2019 fair takes place Aug. 12-17, with **Deggeller Attractions** providing the carnival.

The new president and CEO of the **Miami Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc.**, is **Eduardo Cora**. He replaces **Robert Hohenstein**, who was with the organization seven years. Cora previously served as interim president for six months and as secretary prior to that. He also is a partner in **Land Pro Solutions**, based in Miami.

The **Miami-Dade County Youth Fair** takes place March 14-April 7 (except March

18-19 and April 1-2). **North American Midway Entertainment** has the contract.

The 2018 **Maryland State Fair** made a great impression at the **International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)** convention in San Antonio, Texas, in late November by winning 11 awards in various categories, including two for first place.

Every year, IAFE recognizes excellence in fair programming through four educational contests: Agriculture, Competitive Exhibits, Communications and Sponsorship. Fair members submit their ideas and programs to be judged by IAFE member representatives and professionals from respective fields.

"Our Maryland State Fair team is honored to be recognized for the hard work and dedication it takes to present high-quality, fun, and educational entertainment events for more than a half million fairgoers each year," said Maryland State Fair General Manager **Andy Cashman**.

In other news, the fair has awarded \$50,000 through four scholarship funds to 20 students.

The 138th Maryland State Fair runs Aug. 22-Sept. 2, with **Deggeller Attractions** providing the rides.

Also during the IAFE convention in San Antonio, **Jessica Underberg**, manager / CEO of the **Erie County Fair** in Hamburg, N.Y., was elected as IAFE's 2019 chair. Underberg is the youngest person to ever chair the association. She has served with the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, N.Y., for 23 years and is the youngest person — and first woman — to head up the fair. During her tenure, Underberg has added new competitive exhibits and agriculture shows.

Underberg's involvement in the fair business has taken her many places. In Scotland, she attended the **Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth's 24th Commonwealth Agricultural Conference**, held in Edinburgh in conjunction with the **Royal Highland Show** — the national show of Scotland. Underberg is a graduate of **Canisius College** with a bachelor's degree in social sciences. She and her husband, Mark, live with their daughters Lilly and Ella in Springville, N.Y.

The Erie County Fair's next run is Aug. 7-18, with **Strates Shows** providing the midway.

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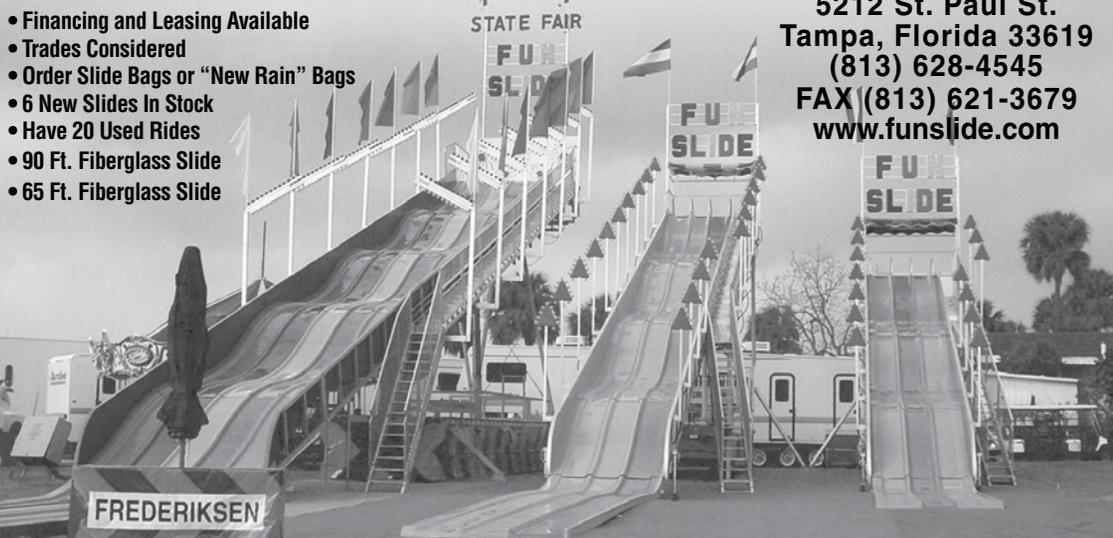
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IAFE, SLA conventions land in San Antonio; offer mix of exhibitors

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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SAN ANTONIO, Texas —After nearly a 50-year stint in Sin City, the annual IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) and SLA (Showmen's League of America,) pulled up their stakes and held their first concurrent conventions in San Antonio. **Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center** and the third floor of the **Marriott Rivercenter**, were the locations, respectively.

There were 270 vendors that utilized 385 available spaces in the 138th IAFE show with 43 exhibitors participating in the 15th SLA exhibitor's lounge trade show. Total attendance was estimated at 3,500 for IAFE and 1,200 for SLA. The two-and-a-half day IAFE show had predominately entertainment booths followed by insurance, rental companies and ticketing and technology service vendors. Two and a half blocks away, the two-day SLA show had a heavy concentration of ride brokers and ride manufacturers along with related companies and services at their table top event.

"We are very pleased with our attendance, but more pleased with the comments we are receiving about the value of the convention — for professional education, networking and doing business. Those are the key ingredients to a successful IAFE event of any type we conduct," said **Marla Calico**, president & CEO.

"It was a very good convention that was well attended," said incoming SLA 2019 President **Andy Schoendienst**, with **Luehr's Ideal Rides**. "Over 80 people signed up or renewed their membership." SLA Treasurer **John Hanschen** with **Thomas Carnival, Inc.** was also pleased with the outcome: "I was impressed how it [registration and exhibitor lounge and trade show] laid out this year. It was inviting. I was also happy with the banquet."

Guy Leavitt's Boot's and Bling Ball at **Pearl Stable** enjoyed sold-out attendance. This was once the home for **Pearl Brewery's** draft horses in the late 19th century. The Stable has been meticulously renovated to preserve the charm and integrity of the original 1894 structure.

Attendees, feelings about the 1,300-mile move southeast were mixed. Here's a sampling of some of the show floor vendors and their wares.

Clear Stream Recycling offers various types of clear



Bob Johnson, retiring OABA president, and Al DeRusha, senior vice president, greet attendees at the SLA table at the Marriott Rivercenter (left). OABA also had space at the IAFE show. American Maintenance (right), based in Babylon, N.Y., was represented by (from left) David Mayer, Lauren Wilson and Shane Jackson. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



bag collection containers as **Jim Alderden**, president of the 15-year old company explained, "The difference is it is a clear bag. People see what they want to do and it also modifies the behavior of people that normally wouldn't do it, but they want to fit in." The containers are a one-time purchase for companies with bags being the only repeat purchase. Signs put on the source-separate containers are a way for fairs and festivals to monetize the program while keeping midways clean.

Finding temporary labor for fairs and festivals can be made easier with the use of **Labor Finders**. "By nature it's a temporary event, so people don't typically hire permanent workers," said **Dan Shube**, chief marketing officer. "We provide temporary workers for the events to do the extra work that they need, whether they be unskilled, semi-skilled or skilled; different trades people whether it be ticket takers, wait staff, bus staff or traffic control, security, assembly, disassembly of tents — stuff like that."

Hampton Umbrella Rides and aluminum fencing and gates is what **Dalton Kid Ride Rebuilders, Inc.** is all about. They manufacture trailer mounted, ground mounted or skid mounted new versions of this iconic flat ride. **Kevin Dalton**, owner of the Foley, Mo., company described his show experience: "Its been fair. It's probably been a little more than I thought it was going to be, but its been less than I normally get when we're in Las Vegas."

SLA and OABA brought in **JKJ Workforce Agency, Inc.** to present seminars and training sessions including one on compliance that covered the e-verification program and I-9 issues for companies wanting to be a good H2B employer. JKJ works with the government to obtain H2B visas for the mobile entertainment industry recruiting tempo-

rary workers on a seasonal basis, legally. They also do P1 and O1 visas for circus artists. The company also was an exhibitor. **James Judkins**, president, had a good experience in San Antonio. "It gives us an opportunity to meet a lot of clients in person. It's [San Antonio] a good central location where they can come visit us and they can talk over problems and issues," he said.

Providing a clean and healthy work environment for employees and customers is the goal of **American Maintenance**. "We're a turn-key event cleaning company, being anything at a large event like the New York State Fair [1.2 million attendees] to a small golf event [3,000-5,000 on a weekend]," explained **Shane Jackson**. They provide all the equipment, transportation, labor and anything else needed to clean and maintain an event.

Skootaround, Inc. a mobility rental company provides scooter, wheelchair, power chair, walker, stroller, and wagon rental services. **Dylan Hughes** in marketing described their operation as it relates to fairs and festivals: "For the fair, it's typically just rentals. We will bring in electric scooters and some wheelchairs for the attendees at the fair so they will be able to rent that equipment to better navigate the fairgrounds. Hughes, a first-time attendee, shared his thoughts on the show: "I've been really impressed with the show.

We got to meet some of our partners that I haven't met before at some of the state fairs that we already work with, like **Florida State Fair** and **Erie County Fair**. We've also got to talk with lots of other fairs from across the country like Washington state to Texas to Florida that we haven't worked with before."

Crowd containment solutions are always an important part of any successful amusement event. **Modu-Loc USA** is a company providing fence rentals. "We have a temporary fence system. It is modular in design, much different than what the industry has out there, chain-link style," said **Kevin Ulshafer** with Modu-Loc. "It's all welded wire, powder-coated fence [of] high quality and a short black fence for VIP crowd control." The strong, high stability fence is used at construction sites, music festivals, along with the portable and permanent amusement industry. As Ulshafer says, "If you need to fence it in, we can do it."

In 1989 **Communications Direct Inc.** started with 30 radios as **Ronald Grandfelt**, regional manager explains, "My boss ran it out of the trunk of his car. He joined forces with two other guys who worked for **Motorola** in 1992. Now we currently own 6,000 radios that we rent. We do something as small as catering events, county fairs, [to] presidential inaugurations, **Lollapalooza**, **Austin City**

Limits, the Final Four, just to name a few." The company has grown to be one of the largest Motorola two-way radio dealers in the United States.

A provider of video documentation to fairs and expos, **Pro View Global Digital Surveillance** was represented at the show by **Gary Houghton**, general manager, "We do electronic security — cameras, card-key systems which is electronic access control, intrusion alarms and such." The company provides both permanent installations and portable applications leasing to special events, just to provide video documentation and surveillance during the event. **State Fair of Texas, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo** and **Fort Bend County Fair** are a few of their clients. "The show has been good. It's the center of the universe for fairs, expositions — it's kind of our clientele that we're looking for," said Houghton.

Now in their second generation, **Kay Park Recreation** has been a manufacturer of commercial outdoor furniture since 1954. **Chad DeBoer**, national sales manager explained, "[We are] a small family-owned company that started out making [picnic] tables and benches and grilles that just keeps growing and growing." Other park equipment and commercial grade site furnishings include trash containers, drinking fountains, planters, umbrellas, bollards, shade canopies, bike racks, recycling stations and pet park products. Kay Park also has a selection of bleachers, grandstands, highway towable bleachers and stages.

Rounding out the coverage is a very tall entertainment company, **Stilt Circus**. Since 2000, they have been performing a variety of theatrical circus shows including stilt acrobatics, fire dancing, giant puppets, choreographed dance, hula hooping,

► See IAFE, page 18



Gary Houghton and Alicia Andrews (left) were on hand to explain the services provided by Pro View Global Digital Surveillance. Some of the various types of clear bag collection containers that are offered by Clear Stream Recycling are shown (right). AT/B. DEREK SHAW





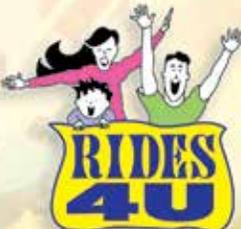
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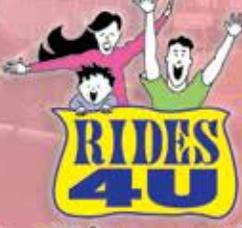
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After a century, LASLA closes up shop

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – The Ladies Auxiliary Showmen's League of America (LASLA) was formed as a result of the 1918 Hagenback-Wallace Circus train wreck and fire that took the lives of 86 people including performers who were on their way to a performance in Hammond, Ind. The Ladies Auxiliary sprang into action by collecting clothing, costumes, rigging and other needed equipment that got lost in the fire, to get the circus back on its feet for the next stop two days later in Beloit, Wisc. This was their first service project.

Through the years, LASLA has donated to various charitable organizations and provided fellowship to their members their families and other worthwhile endeavors. During World War II they provided monies to the Army and Navy Relief Fund. An article appeared in the June 27, 1953 *Billboard Magazine* with the headline, "Ladies Auxiliary On Giving End for 35 Years." In part it said "LASLA continually opens its heart and purse strings to almost every major charity as well as countless less-known causes."

With a declining membership of around 60 and only a half dozen active individuals participating in the events, leadership roles and activities, the LASLA ceased operations Nov. 26, 2018. This was held during the SLA convention with a special luncheon. Jean Brake, president, explained the significance of a candle that was lit for the last time, during the meeting: "It's a tradition that we have done since 1940. The different show clubs are represented by the candle." Brake went on to describe what goes on next: "There will be a final audit. There are things we have to do to dissolve correctly. We will also have our auditor look at the audit and make sure everything is correct with the IRS. Our records are going to be preserved, we think at this point, in Baraboo, Wisc. They have a circus/carnival museum."

After all final bills have been paid, remaining monies will be given to a like organization that shares their same interests.

Executive Director Mary Ann Slaggert had these thoughts, "As we close this final chapter of The Ladies Auxiliary of the Showmen's League of America, let us not view this as the ending of an era, but rather just another chapter in a long and varied history of outdoor entertainment. Let us not be concerned with things we cannot change, but rather rejoice in the many acts of kindness and charity that we were able to provide. We have provided miles of smiles, so let us hold our heads up high with a smile on our lips and charity in our hearts."



Attending for the final meeting of the century-old LASLA (front row, from left): Leah O'Neil, past president, O'Neil Amusements; Patty Painter, past president; Laura Sedlmayr, member, Royal American Shows; Jean Brake, president; and Mary Ann Slaggert, executive director. Back row: Father John Vakulskas, Jr., chaplain and honorary member; Chris Brake, VP; Terry Slaggert, board of governors member; and Al Slaggert, board of governors member and first male member of LASLA.. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

IAFE Continued from page 16

unicycle, juggling and clowning. Performers are highly trained and skilled in their specialty. "We are known for our costuming. We have over 200 custom-designed stilt costumes. We offer to the fairs a different costume every day at their fair," said Star Child, co-owner. "We're usually on the road for about two to three months per fair run." The cast performs all over the world

at various theme/amusement parks, festivals, corporate events and international music tours. Child was asked how the IAFE show was for their product: "It's been a nice change of pace versus Las Vegas. We've been doing this trade show for five years and we've had some new clients and good foot traffic."

The SLA has plans to move their operations closer to the convention center in 2019 by utilizing the Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel.

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WATER PARKS & RECREATION

▶ New Zealand's Hamner Springs Thermal Pools and Spa to add boomerang waterslide — page 21

Design, scoring elements create unique slide

Aqualand Fréjus Waterpark debuts the first Polin Storm Racer

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

FRÉJUS, France — A first-of-its-kind family raft waterslide made its debut near the end of the season at **Aqualand Fréjus Waterpark** in southern France. Storm Racer incorporates a variety of key features that set it apart from other bowl slides: a unique circular geometry, high capacity, interactive lights, scoring and a watersplash feature that keeps guests engaged even while waiting in the queue.

The slide's streamlined, circular, rising path is unlike any previously designed waterslide attraction. Standing nearly eight stories tall, the 79-foot attraction features a slide path of 285 feet and a top speed of nearly 25 mph. Upon entering the slide, guests traverse an enclosed tube that features **Polin's** patented Natural Light Effects technology, which has guests sliding through a dizzying array of colorful stripes as they quickly gain speed dropping more than 60 feet. Upon shooting out of the enclosed portion, riders then enter an open-bowl configuration where they experience strong centrifugal forces as they are propelled up a wide, sweeping, curved slope. Rafts rush toward the top of the slope, but just before they seem to be ready to collide with the top of the slide, gravity pulls them back down in a reverse ride.



These overall views show the central tower, viewing platforms, first drop and upward spiral of the bowl section. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

The sloped bowl pushes the rafts towards the center of the bowl, past the entry point and towards the bowl's exit. The energy gained as riders slide down the bowl provides the force to propel them down and out where their journey continues through a wide, open slide which terminates in a run-out.

As the raft reaches the high point of the bowl, its position is determined by sensors which then display the results on a scoreboard and also activate color LED lights within the bowl. The sections light up as the raft gets higher, and if the raft reaches the high point of the slide, a watersplash feature is activated at the top of the tower.

Guests queue in the center of the slide on a central tower providing spectator appeal. A spiral staircase leads to multiple viewing platforms so guests can watch the rafts filled with thrill seekers slide all around them, cheering them on as they climb to the high point of the slide. The watersplash feature at the top of the tower launches a plume of water vertically into the air, dousing those waiting with a refreshing spray. The water spray also helps to keep the decking and stairs cool.

Storm Racer utilizes 78-inch round family-style rafts. The slide is equipped with a lift that brings the rafts to the top of the slide for the convenience of guests. Once the raft exits the bowl, the next one waiting can be dispatched, potentially as quickly as every 30 seconds. With four people per raft, the maximum theoretical capacity at peak operation is 480 riders per hour. Although Aqualand Fréjus opted for the single version, Polin offers a double version which operates off the same tower, with opposite entry points and layered bowls.

Wilfrid Lenandeis, director of operations of the **Aspro Group**, said that the addition of Storm Racer is important to maintain guest expectations. "We know how quickly people's interests can change, and we want to make sure we are



Lighted sections illuminate as the raft climbs higher and higher. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

always top of mind when they are considering how to spend their entertainment dollars. We focus on delivering an incredible experience for the value so guests will come back and are never disappointed."

Aqualand Fréjus is part of the **Aqualand** family of waterparks owned by the Spanish tourism group **Aspro Ocio, S.A.**, which operates more than 60 leisure parks throughout Europe — including 15 Aqualands. The Fréjus property is the largest water park in the

Cote d'Azur (French Riviera) tourist area of France. Its location on the Mediterranean coastline provides sunny, hot, dry summers which are ideal for water recreation. Although the winters are also moderate, the water park season typically runs from June through September.

Aqualand Fréjus features a number of Polin waterslides including a King Cobra — the first in France when it was installed in 2012.

•polin.com.tr



This raft has exited the bowl and is heading toward the final runout. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

A private developer has submitted plans to county and city councils in Gaffney, S.C. to build a water park. The **Peach Beach Water Park** proposal would cost \$10 to \$12 million, and the developer is expecting the city to provide most, if not all, of the funding. City and county leaders believe the water park will benefit the whole community but they are not yet ready to commit the funds. They want to look at a similar project the same developer built in Hartsville, S.C. That project was funded by a bond referendum and grant money. That park just completed its first season and drew more than 65,000 guests which the city of Hartsville considers a phenomenal success. The developer has offered to provide to the city and county leaders a feasibility study on the Peach Beach Water Park. The proposed park would have multiple slides, a lazy river, outdoor wave pool, indoor lap pool, children's play area, cabanas and seating areas.

Gaffney is known for its peach-shaped water tower nicknamed the Peachoid which serves as an artistic statement to travelers that Gaffney is the self-proclaimed "Peach Capital of South Carolina."

The **Great Wolf Lodge** in Grapevine, Texas, completed a multimillion-dollar renovation in time for its New Year's eve celebration. The \$11 million project included a full transformation of all 605 guest rooms with new beds, flooring, wall coverings and furniture to reflect a more modern take on the Northwoods theme. The update also included refurbishment of the Grand Lobby with new carpeting, furniture and fixtures.

The resort's main attraction, the 80,000 square-foot indoor water park, remained open during the renovation.



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

The Texas property is the brand's largest Great Wolf Lodge in terms of room count, and one of the most popular in terms of attendance.

Great Wolf Lodge currently operates 18 lodges with several more in the planning stages. The company just announced its first venture into Mexico with construction starting on a new lodge in Tepeji del Río, Hidalgo, situated about 50 miles from Mexico City. Hidalgo was chosen for the potential market reach it has with one-third of Mexico's population within a 100-kilometer radius of the facility. The lodge is expected to open in 2021.

Hamner Springs Thermal Pools and Spa in New Zealand, has announced plans for a \$2.9 million (NZD 4.3 million) expansion. The expansion includes a new 44-foot boomerang type wall slide that has guests in rafts sliding through an enclosed tube before going down a steep drop that propels them up a near-vertical wall for a moment of weightlessness before zooming back down onto the slide's finish. The slide will utilize an existing slide tower that currently supports the park's SuperBowl.

The expansion also includes five new thermal pools which will sit among river boulder terraces and native gardens. Half of the energy required to run the new pools and slide will come from a heat transfer unit using energy which is a byproduct of the complex's new electricity generator. The pools were designed to be water efficient with no hold-

ing tanks, and new construction techniques will enable the pools' foundation to sit above ground and not damage tree roots below.

The park's new 65-kilowatt Capstone micro-turbine generator was introduced in October 2018. It converts previously wasted methane gas into electricity.

Construction of the new pools and slide is expected to start in April 2019, with the opening scheduled for late 2019 in time for the start of the season.

Typhoon Texas is working with the city of Pflugerville, Texas, to open a new year-round restaurant, new waterslide and make parking lot improvements to the Typhoon Texas Pflugerville property. According to the agreement, Typhoon Texas will open and operate the restaurant, and the city will work on road improvements to ease access to the park. The agreement also allows Typhoon Texas to use the park as collateral to secure a loan to fund the water attraction. The city of Pflugerville owns the park and the land.

Operation of the former **Hawaiian Falls** was granted to the principals of Typhoon Texas in 2017 after previous owners Harvest Family Entertainment failed to make lease payments and owed the city nearly \$400,000. The park has fared well since Typhoon Texas took over in 2017. Attendance has nearly doubled from 2017 to 2018 and city leaders have stated that the current operation exceeds expectations in cleanliness, safety and overall customer experience.

"We continue to see great opportunity to build the Typhoon Texas brand as a premier water park in Central Texas," said Typhoon Texas CFO and co-owner **Ray DeLaughter**.

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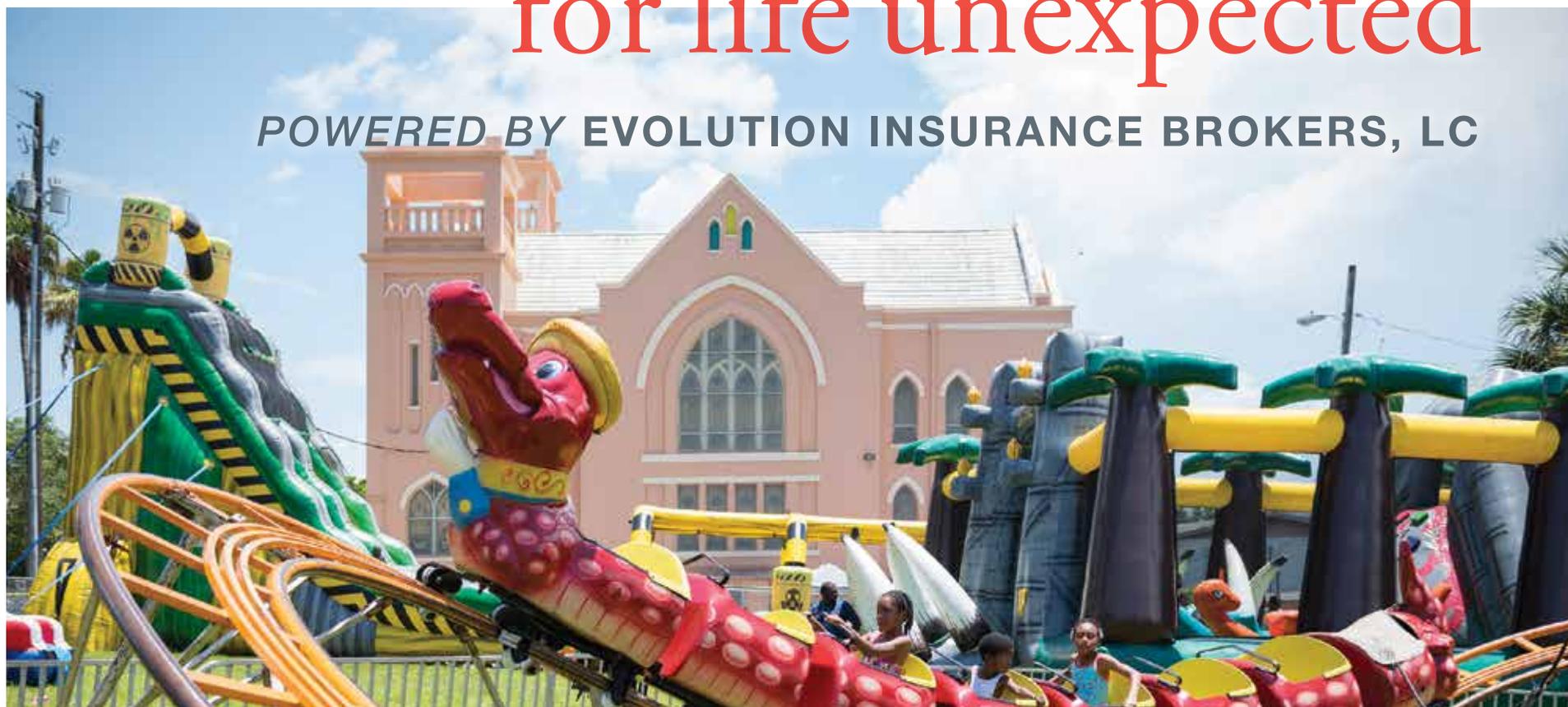
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▶ JoDee Herschend passes — page 24 / Management Resources, ProFun complete merger — page 25

Tribute to the late president



The 180-foot Chance Rides Capital Wheel at National Harbor, located on the Potomac River waterfront in Oxon Hill, Md., near Washington, D.C., revolved in red, white and blue in honor the service and Nov. 30 passing of George H. W. Bush, the 41st president of the U.S. Other large wheels that joined the patriotic Dec. 4-6 tribute via their E-Works Pro LED lighting packages were the Great Smoky Mountain Wheel at The Island in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; Seattle Great Wheel in Washington; Pacific Park Wheel on the Santa Monica Pier in Santa Monica, Calif.; and Giant Wheel at Morey's Piers & Beachfront Water Parks in Wildwood, N.J. COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

Tokyo Disney hotel planned

URAYASU, Japan — **Oriental Land Co., Ltd.**, recently announced that a new affordable hotel will be developed within the **Tokyo Disney Resort** area, which currently has four hotels. Based on the *Toy Story* films, the approximately 600-room lodge is projected to open in fiscal year 2021. Both outside and inside, the property will offer guests an environment in which everything appears to be made of toys. The guest rooms and décor are inspired by Andy's bedroom, where Woody, Buzz Lightyear and all the other toys live. Property amenities include a restaurant and gardens. Oriental Land is planning to open new areas at **Tokyo Disneyland** and **Tokyo DisneySea** parks in 2020 and 2022, respectively.

Topgolf lauded by Goldman Sachs

Company executive Erik Anderson noted for entrepreneurship

DALLAS — **Topgolf Entertainment Group** Co-chairman and CEO **Erik Anderson** has been named by **Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.**, as one of the 100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs of 2018.

The annual honors were presented in November during the New York City-based investment banking company's **Builders + Innovators Summit** in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"A dynamic economy depends on dynamic entrepreneurs who disrupt industries and occasionally give birth to entirely new sectors," said **David M. Solomon**, CEO of Goldman Sachs. "The purpose of Builders + Innovators is to support emerging leaders in their quests to innovate faster in order to grow their ideas."

Anderson also was ranked third on **Golf Inc.** magazine's 2018 list of "Most Powerful People in Golf," up from his eighth-place ranking in 2017.

Under Anderson's leadership, Dallas-headquartered Topgolf has become one of the world's fastest-growing sports and entertainment brands. In the past five years, the company has expanded from 10 venues welcoming 1.5 million guests annually to 51 venues with 17 million guest visits projected by the end of 2018. Anderson also led Topgolf through a series of strategic acquisitions to take the Topgolf experience beyond the venues.

In addition to his role at Topgolf, Anderson is founder and CEO of **WestRiver Group**, a company providing inte-



Erik Anderson, co-chairman and CEO of Topgolf (right), has been honored by Goldman Sachs, Inc., for his entrepreneurship. In November, the sports entertainment center chain opened its 50th venue worldwide in Pharr, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley (above). COURTESY TOPGOLF



grated capital solutions for the global innovation economy. He also serves as vice chairman of **OneHope**, a cause-centric consumer brand and technology company known primarily for its award-winning wine and vineyard in Napa, Calif.

Anderson is a board member of several organizations, including **Singularity University**, a global community using technology to tackle the world's biggest challenges; **Play Magnus**, an interactive chess app inspired by World Chess Champion **Magnus Carlsen**; and **Avista Corp.**, an energy management company.

The executive is committed to causes that help impact the nation's youth and, in the past year, has led initiatives to contribute to nonprofits, schools and individuals across the U.S. He founded **First Move, America's Foundation for Chess**, which engages

students in learning, positive educational experiences and lifelong social and critical thinking skills. The organization has served more than one million students of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds with an interactive classroom program.

Anderson also oversaw the start of the **Youth Play It Forward** program at Topgolf, where high school golf teams and charities serving youth can play at Topgolf for free during the day Mondays through Thursdays.

Each Topgolf venue features an indoor driving range with dozens of high-tech, climate-controlled hitting bays for year-round comfort. Visit the company online for more information about its entertainment centers, original-content programming and pop-up social experiences.

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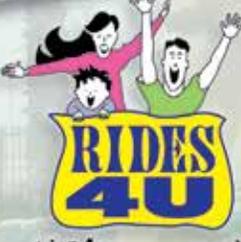
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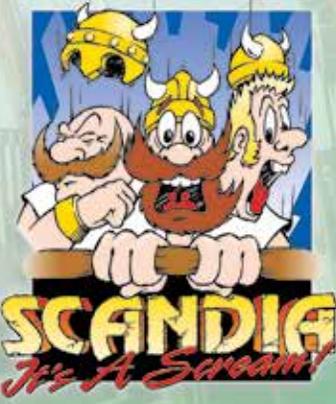



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- Zamperla Elephant & Dragon (P/M)...\$35,000
- Miler Big coaster (90' high, 310' long)....\$950,000
- Zamperla Rio Grande Train (P/M)....\$15,000
- S&S Frog Hopper (T/M).....\$89,000
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- Zamperla Fire Chief (P/M).....\$25,000
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OBITUARY

JoDee Herschend, Herschend Enterprises

BRANSON, Mo. — JoDee Herschend, co-owner of theme park operator Herschend Enterprises and wife of company co-founder/owner Peter Herschend, passed away Nov. 25 after a 24-year battle with cancer.

JoDee grew up in Springfield, Mo., and took a job with Silver Dollar City in Branson in 1962 while a student at Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State). She worked in the park's General Store and as a street performer — playing the role of "Sarey Ellen" alongside a young Peter Herschend. Their work together led to true love and their marriage in 1966, and during 50-plus years they raised five children while growing Herschend Enterprises.

JoDee also had far-ranging philanthropic reach as founder of The Caring People, an international ministry to single mothers. More than two decades after its creation, it has expanded to serve single moms in more than 30 locations in four states and Central America.

JoDee and Peter invested time and treasure in a wide range of ministries and projects at the local, national and international levels, including Acts 29, Episcopal World Missions and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. They also helped establish Sigma House, a drug rehabilitation center in Branson, and the Ozark Food Harvest.



JoDee Herschend in recent times and in the 1960s as a Silver Dollar City employee. COURTESY HERSCHEID ENTERPRISES

ON THE MOVE

Having served as the CEO of the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based **National Swimming Pool Foundation** (NSPF) since 2003, **Thomas Lachocki**, Ph.D., has announced his plan to retire this year. Under Lachocki's leadership, NSPF has grown from offering one product, Certified Pool & Spa Operator Certification, to becoming a market leader — delivering educational and promotional services to the residential construction, pool service and commercial pool operation segments via classroom and online learning. His vision gave rise to the **World Aquatic Health Conference**, which in 2018 celebrated its 15th year of exploring scientific advances and convening the leading thinkers and influencers in aquatics.



Davis

Kent Lemasters, president of Tustin, Calif.-based **AmusementAquatic Management Group, Inc.** (AMG), was inducted into the **World Waterpark Association** (WWA) Hall of Fame at **WWA Show 2018** in Las Vegas in October. Lemasters began his career in the attractions industry with seasonal positions before developing the sales department at **Silver Dollar City** in Branson, Mo., and becoming director of marketing for that park and for **Dollywood** in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. In 1985, Lemasters became VP and general manager of **Raging Waters** water park in San Dimas, Calif. AMG, which he founded in 2000, has provided planning, operational and consulting services to 35 water parks around the world.



Lemasters

Karen Oertley, executive director of **AIMS International** and a regular AIMS columnist for the print edition of *Amusement Today*, has announced that she will retire in April. Oertley has led AIMS since 2014 and played a critical role in its growth. The organization has seen increased seminar attendance and sponsorship, establishing a regional platform to deliver its mission beyond its annual safety seminar with expanded certification and education programs. With a four-decade career in the amusement and live entertainment industry, Oertley served as publisher and editor-in-chief of *Amusement Business* for more than 25 years and as a member of the AIMS board of directors for eight years.



Oertley

Management Resources, ProFun Management finalize merger

LOS ANGELES — Management Resources and ProFun Management Group, two operations consulting and management firms with long-standing reputations in the areas of themed entertainment and cultural attractions, completed a merger in November.

Both entities previously provided an assortment of planning, advisory and management services, though Management Resources focused mainly on operational consulting while ProFun focused on operational management. The new corporate entity,



MR-ProFun, has arisen from a carefully orchestrated integration that enabled the two companies to optimize their combined resources.

MR-ProFun has realigned its core service offerings into five areas: planning, advisory, training, implementation and management. Leadership includes Brad Merriman,

president; Jim Higashi, managing partner, planning and advisory services; and Mike Oswald, managing partner, management services. The company will continue to operate from its Los Angeles-area corporate headquarters and regional office in Shanghai, China.

"We are thrilled to formally introduce MR-ProFun," Merriman said. "The merger of our two world-class organizations enables us to offer a broader, more comprehen-

sive array of high-quality services backed by our 38 years of experience in this industry."

Added Higashi: "We are confident that our newly combined talent and resources leave us well positioned as the premier attractions industry consulting and management firm. Our blended team will deliver consultation and management expertise for theme parks, museums, aquariums, destination resorts, brand centers and world

expositions."

MR-ProFun's multi-functional team of consultants and operations experts continue to assist owners and developers with virtually every aspect of strategic planning, execution and management of new and existing attractions — working to ensure clients have the tools and insights necessary to successfully produce compelling experiences that yield superior guest satisfaction and financial results.

•mr-prof.com

IAAPA issues website access advisory

According to the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), the number of federal lawsuits alleging inaccessible websites continues to increase, along with the number of law firms filing them. Members who sell tickets or merchandise, or conduct any type of commerce, through their websites are at risk.

IAAPA members are advised to seek advice from counsel and website providers experienced in Website Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 to manage risk. These guidelines define the requirements for making websites accessible to persons with visual disabilities using screen reader software.

Plaintiffs filed more website accessibility lawsuits in federal court in the first six months of 2018 than in all of 2017. There were at least 1,053 of such lawsuits in the first six months of 2018, compared to 814 in all of 2017, according to Seyfarth Shaw, LLP.

If you have any questions about how to prevent such lawsuits, please contact IAAPA's accessibility expert, Bob Minnick: bob@rfmconsultants.com.

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A view from the top...

Rockwell Automation is one of the world's largest companies dedicated to industrial automation and information products. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., Rockwell Automation employs over 22,000 people and has customers in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Linda Freeman has been employed at Rockwell Automation since 1996. She is an industry specialist manager for the amusement industry and focuses on supporting the industry in trade associations, being a thought leader for new technologies, safety and cyber security education, and inspiring the next generation of amusement engineers.

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- **Certifications: Functional Safety Engineer & Cyber Security Specialist (TUV Rheinland)**
- **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), Global Security Committee**
- **AIMS International, Board of Directors, Treasurer**
- **ASTM F24 SRCS (which is the standard practice for amusements), Security task group leader**
- **Ryerson Thrill Competition judge**

Legos, TV tinkering contribute to building a distinguished career

ORLANDO — Linda Freeman didn't grow up in the amusement industry. She wasn't one of those kids that grew up thinking she wanted to build a roller coaster one day or any other amusement attraction, for that matter.

Her first memory of a fast coaster was when she was 13 years old. She went to **Six Flags Over Georgia**, Austell, Ga., not far from her home in south Georgia.

"I was terrified to get on it, but, afterwards, I loved it," she said.

So, it isn't what Freeman didn't do that led her down the road to where she is today. It is, instead, what she did do.

Her favorite toys were Legos.

As a young child, "I never wanted to play with my Barbies."

She also grew up tinkering in the back of television sets with her father.

"My father was a television repairman for some years," she said. "I remember being in the basement with him and watching him. He would make a game out of fixing the televisions. I loved that."

How things were made and how they worked fascinated her and still do. Her favorite television program was, and most probably still is, "How It's Made," a series on how everyday things are made that first aired in 2001 on the Discovery Channel.

"Do you remember that show?"

It showed how to make things like Cheetos," she said, still with a childhood hint of excitement in her voice.

Freeman is a 1996 graduate of **Georgia Institute of Technology** in Atlanta, where she received a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering. She secured her first career job not long after graduation. That job was with Rockwell Automation in the division of the forest products industry in Wisconsin, her first relocation. She would relocate twice more in her first four years with Rockwell, to Washington state and then to Florida, the latter move dropping her in the middle of Rockwell's entertainment and leisure division in Orlando.

Her first years there she found herself helping design control automation systems as well as troubleshooting existing systems all associated with live entertainment.

She loved what she was doing. Did she ever think of change?

"Of course, I did," she said. "I would think, 'I have been doing this for so long.' But, every single time, I would come back."

It was her job experiences that kept reminding her she was where she was supposed to be.

"I have a story I like to tell about this," she said. "In 2010, we had just completed a very large, unique project. I was there when the attrac-

Linda Freeman
Business Development Manager
Rockwell Automation
Orlando, Fla.



tion opened for the first time. I was with a colleague who suggested we go stand on the platform where the first riders would be unloading. I got to see the first guests coming off the platform. I can't tell you what it meant to me to stand there, in the background, and see their faces, their smiles. After five years of hard work, from notes on a napkin to this. I felt so honored and so privileged to be in this industry."

In fact, Freeman began to stretch and support the industry as a whole through her work with industry associations. In 2015, she went to Rockwell's executives and told them she wanted to have more of an impact on the industry.

"I wanted a more global role," she said. "I wanted to be more focused on what the future of the industry will look like."

She wanted to reach out to young people, to the next generation of those in the industry.

She is doing all these things.

In this role, she has seen signifi-

cant trends leading to changes. She said things are speeding up rapidly.

"People want more speed. They want speed in the change from one scene to another and with that speed, there has to be more coordination between components so there has to be more accuracy."

She said there is the desire for interactivity, guests being able to interact with any and all features of the activity they are engaged in.

"So, then, you have to have technology that reads what guests are doing and responds accurately," she said. "Everything is connected."

The more sophisticated technology also has caused the importance of cyber security to increase.

"It always needs to be a point of conversation," she said.

Freeman feels it is an exciting time to be in this industry. Changes create new challenges, but those changes also can boost creativity.

"Every segment of this market is seeing something new," she said.

—Pam Sherborne

MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 12/07/18	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	31.42	40.60	30.08
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	327.70	415.70	304.50
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	51.71	70.82	47.89
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	37.42	44.00	30.43
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	111.98	120.20	97.68
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.27	0.72	0.27
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	70.71	72.18	51.87
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	3140.00	3750.00	2582.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.61	2.30	1.18
Lefoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	6.87	8.26	5.45
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	25.98	38.41	23.81
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	10.76	15.19	10.12
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1872.00	2160.00	1038.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	26.94	32.47	12.59
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	57.57	73.38	51.91
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	8.10	15.88	7
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	628.00	704.00	560.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	2.50	4.15	1.73

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: ASX, Australian Securities Exchange; CSE, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; LSE, London Stock Exchange; NYSE, New York Stock Exchange; NASDAQ, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; SEHK, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; SZSE, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; TSEC, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; TYO/TSE, Tokyo Stock Exchange
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal

BUSINESS WATCH

Disney's investment in parks exceeds media

ORLANDO — A recent report by *The New York Times* illustrated the extent of **Walt Disney Parks and Resorts'** global theme park investment. Each of Disney's six theme park resorts, plus **Disney Cruise Line**, is undergoing major expansion. According to **Michael Nathanson**, a longtime media analyst, Disney will spend an estimated \$24 billion on new attractions, hotels and ships over the next five years — more than the company's combined outlay for media companies **Pixar, Marvel** and **Lucasfilm**. The investment stands to reason: the parks division had an operating profit of \$4.5 billion in fiscal year 2018, an increase of more than 100 percent from five years earlier. Comparatively, **Disney Media Networks** (including **ESPN** and **ABC**), saw a three percent decline in its operating profit. In other Disney news, company shareholders have set a tougher benchmark for CEO **Robert Iger** to reach in order to collect the rest of a \$100 million equity grant as part of his compensation in 2021; Disney must achieve a total shareholder return that outperforms 65 percent of companies in the **S&P 500** for the payout.

Cedar Point buys real estate near entrance

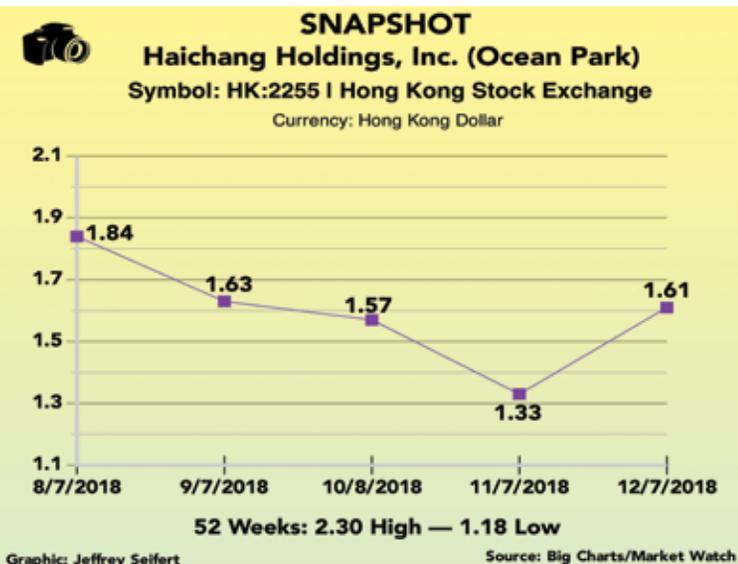
SANDUSKY, Ohio — Over the last year, **Cedar Point** has been quietly acquiring additional property near the entrance to the park's causeway. The latest parcels purchased are located mostly along Cleveland Road, and they follow eight properties acquired by the park in the same vicinity in latter 2017. Officials with park operator **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** are not saying what their plans are for the land consolidation, but between the local newspaper *Sandusky Register* and amusement park social media groups, the speculation has ranged from employee housing to parking garages and/or hotels.

Picsolve keeps expanding after record year

LONDON — **Picsolve**, a leading digital content capture partner for attractions, is celebrating record U.S. growth after the number of locations using its technology more than doubled in 2018. Recent contracts include the **San Diego Zoo** and four attractions operated by **Merlin Entertainments**. Since Picsolve's acquisition of **Freeze Frame** in 2017, the number of locations in the U.S. using Picsolve technology has grown by more than 100 percent and now includes theme parks, casinos, museums, observatories and other specialized attractions. The company's partnership with the San Diego Zoo will see Picsolve's new Super Selfie content capture technology, green screen technology and roaming photography power visitor experiences. Other recent U.S. client partnerships include **Caesars Entertainment**, **360 Chicago Observation Deck** and **National Geographic Encounter: Ocean Odyssey** in New York City's **Times Square**.

Pricetag USA sues SeaWorld over contract

ORLANDO — As reported by the *Orlando Sentinel*, Atlanta-based **Pricetag USA**, a company that helps attractions implement dynamic pricing strategies, has filed a breach of contract lawsuit seeking more than \$15,000 from **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment**. Pricetag alleges that SeaWorld owes the company approximately \$157,020, including \$142,020 for an "incentive fee" plus \$15,000 in retainer fees for three months. The lawsuit follows a 2017 agreement in which Pricetag was to assist five SeaWorld properties with pricing, and another agreement in 2018 involving Discovery Cove at **SeaWorld Orlando**. According to the lawsuit, SeaWorld suspended Pricetag's work for the initial five parks without formally dissolving the agreement. Court documents indicated that SeaWorld notified Pricetag in August that it was ending the Discovery Cove agreement as of Nov. 30.



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East Coast	\$3.229	+\$0.325
Midwest	\$3.117	+\$0.240
Gulf Coast	\$2.989	+\$0.276
Mountain	\$3.291	+\$0.272
West Coast	\$3.406	+\$0.300
California	\$3.922	+\$0.337

CURRENCY

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0.8803	EURO
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0.9950	CHF (Swiss Franc)
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New IAAPA Orlando headquarters on target for summer opening

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Journalists were given an advance look at the construction progress of the new headquarters of the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** during the IAAPA Attractions Expo '18. The site, conveniently located between the Orlando International Airport and the **Orange County Convention Center**, will be seen as very advantageous to members.

"The member space is important to all of us, and members will have a significant amount of space in the new building dedicated to them," said **Susan Story**, director of communications, IAAPA. "This includes: meeting rooms, special event space and a lounge, as

well as a library for the association's archives."

The location of the seven-acre facility is positioned at the edge of Shingle Creek, which is the headwaters of the Everglades watershed. The new headquarters will be surrounded by water on three sides adding natural beauty. The scenic area has an open back patio for staff to enjoy the weather on a lunch break or for members to conduct receptions. Termed a "forever lawn," tents and other structures can be moved in place for events.

"We have the ability even for local members to have meetings and do special events," said **John Hallenbeck**, vice president North American operations, IAAPA. "Sometimes it's not so easy to get a conference room or have a place to meet. Being an IAAPA member is

all about connections. [This is] not your normal office building. It likens itself to the industry."

IAAPA members will easily see a greater value to their membership once the facility opens.

"This was built and designed for them. We're not in a nondescript office. It was designed to honor our entire history. This is the hub," said Storey.

The members area will have a multi-purpose venue. A loading dock will be able to facilitate the movement of goods needed or materials for receptions.

"There will also be many thematic elements and displays reflecting the diversity of the global attractions industry and our members around the world," said Storey. "We have designed the area to where members can come to

the headquarters for a short time — say, to work or relax before heading to an airport — to a longer time to have small meetings with each other or other clients/vendors/partners. We also will have a nice special event space for receptions."

The lobby area will be the tallest area making for an inviting open space. The office areas will house approximately 50 staff members. The direction was to keep an open feeling, so Hallenbeck stated walls won't be going up to the ceiling. There is a lot of glass.

The architect was HHCP.

"This is a great next step for IAAPA — to have a true home," said Storey. "This is where the industry can come together and say this is our connection point. This is the center of the great things that IAAPA can bring together."

IAAPA's John Hallenbeck (left) offers a construction tour of the new headquarters during the recent IAE '18. Completion of the new facility is expected to be summer of this year.
COURTESY IAAPA; AT/TIM BALDWIN



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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

▶ PACE Seminar recap — page 34 / New escape room fire codes to be discussed at HauntCon — page 50

Spotlight returns to safety as 2019 seminars get underway

AIMS, NAARSO, IRT, NWSC, Pa. Ride Safety events set dates

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

No matter what level, specific need or area, there are ample opportunities for those in the amusement industry to hone their safety skills and knowledge at several upcoming national safety seminars.

These events offer certifications in fields such as ride inspection, operations and technical expertise.

Following is an advance look at what to expect at five seminars.



AIMS International

The 2019 AIMS International Safety Seminar is getting the peak seminar season off to an early start. The comprehensive safety-training experience is scheduled for Jan. 13-18 in Galveston, Texas, with all classes to be held in the Galveston Convention Center.

There are some milestones associated with this year's event.

For the first time this year, AIMS has added a Family Entertainment Center (FEC) series certification program. Karen Oertley, executive



The 2019 AIMS International Safety Seminar will take place Jan. 13-18 in Galveston, Texas, with all classes held in the Galveston Convention Center. Attendance last year was 450; AIMS officials are expecting a higher number this year. Shown at the 2018 gathering (above left, from left) are Jim Seay of Premier Rides, AIMS International Executive Director Karen Oertley and Dick Chance of Chance Rides. COURTESY AIMS INTERNATIONAL

director of AIMS, has said this series is an eight-hour schedule of classes specific to the FEC industry.

The 2019 seminar will mark Oertley's last in the AIMS leadership role, which she has held since 2014 (see retirement announcement on page 24). As *Amusement Today* went to press, the organization's board of directors was conducting a search for its next executive director.

Lesley Lassiter, AIMS's new certification program manager, will be on hand for her first seminar.

This is the second year AIMS has held its safety seminar in Galveston. Oertley said the 2018 seminar was so successful, the organization decided to go back. Official attendance at the 2018 event was 450 and she is hoping for even more this year.

AIMS International, a non-profit organization dedicated to the safety of the amusement industry, will offer approximately 200 classes during its seminar.

Along with the new FEC series certification program,

other highlights this year include the welcome reception set for Sunday, Jan. 13, and the keynote address Monday morning, Jan. 14, by Patrick Hoffman, president of The Hoffman Consulting Group, LLC, a company that offers operational, safety and security consulting services for the amusement and leisure industries.

National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) testing is offered Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 15.

Hands-on events will take place at Pleasure Pier, owned by Landry's, Inc. An evening reception is set for Pleasure Pier on Wednesday evening, Jan. 16.

AIMS testing is set for Friday afternoon after a morning of review and studying.

AIMS testing offers certification on several levels. The following is the list of testing: Certified Maintenance Technician, Levels I, II, and III; Certified Operations Technician, Levels I, II, and III; Certified Aquatics Operations Technician, Level I; Associate



Ride Inspector, Level I; Certified Ride Inspector, Level II; and Professional Ride Inspector — Level III.

Holly Coston remains the seminar manager. More information may be obtained by going to aimsintl.org.



NAARSO

NAARSO's 32nd Annual Safety Forum is set for Jan. 27-Feb. 2 at the Kingston Resort Hilton in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

NAARSO is a non-profit organization that provides resources for amusement industry professionals dedicated to the safety of the industry and its patrons. Its safety seminar offers a tailored curriculum for each

attendee depending on skill level and need.

NAARSO's annual membership meeting is set for Sunday afternoon, Jan. 27. The first two days of classes, Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 28 and 29, are broken into two groups, primary and secondary, with those taking secondary courses able to participate in the operations classes.

AIMS certification testing is offered Tuesday evening.

NAARSO's hands-on activities are set for **Broadway at the Beach** on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Operations Certifications testing is set for Thursday evening, Feb. 1, with all other testing held Friday afternoon, Feb. 2, following a morning of review.

Four levels of inspection certification and two levels of operations certificates are offered during the event.

Connie Patton, the organization's go-to person for information in the office, trade shows and safety seminars for over 20 years, announced her

▶ See SEMINARS, page 30

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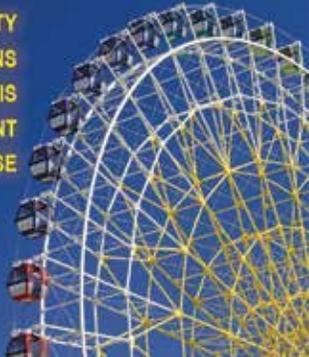
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SEMINARS

Continued from page 29

retirement last September. She will be on hand at the 2019 safety forum and will be training her replacement, **Sherrie Kontos**.

More information may be obtained at naarso.com.



International Ride Training (IRT)

Ride Camp 2019, IRT's ninth annual **International Ride Operator Certification (iROC)**, has been set for Feb. 5-8, at **The Park at Owa** in **Foley, Ala.**

This three-day program focuses on training the trainer. Instructors learn best practices on how to teach safety and service procedures to other instructors. It offers an iROC Instructor Certification.

Participants are operators of hard rides, aquatics, go-karts, zip lines, inflatables and more.

For the first time this year, iROC Ride Camp will offer opportunities for experienced iROC students to take more advanced courses in ride safety, ADA compliance and legal exposure. Less experienced students will take foundational courses to improve ride safety performance and training effectiveness.

Also new this year is a water park certification for top-of-the-slide iROC operators.

In addition, by popular demand, this year's school will give all Ride Campers the opportunity to conduct two videotaped "teachbacks" to help hone and strengthen training techniques.

There will be new and improved instructor materials offered to support training and improve ride operator performance in parks of any size.

Visit ridetraining.com for more information.



Northwestern Showmen's Club (NWSC)

The 2019 **NWSC Safety Seminar** is set for Feb. 17-22 in **Portland, Ore.**, marking the 39th annual event. The first two days of the seminar will be held at **Oaks Amusement**



Funtastic Traveling Shows winter quarters is the site for the third and fourth days of training. Above, **Ron and Bev Burback** go over general seminar information, **Below**, even space typically used to store vehicles turns into a classroom for the **Northwest Showmen's Ride Safety Seminar**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Phil Slaggert, **Slaggert Risk management** and coordinator of the **Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar** also presented two of the fall 2018 classroom sessions, one on **Indoor Inflation Operations** and another on **Haunted Attractions Incidents – The Modern Era**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Park. The remaining days are set for the **Funtastic Shows Campus**.

Classes will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. Attendees may build a tailored course curriculum that best suits their need and the need of their employer. **Carnival Tech Testing** is offered as part of the seminar.

The **NWSC Safety Seminar** is aligned with **Portland Community College** for accreditation in their Continuing Education Program providing 4 CEU's for participation and completion of the seminar. The interactive classes and hands-on

► See SEMINARS, page 32

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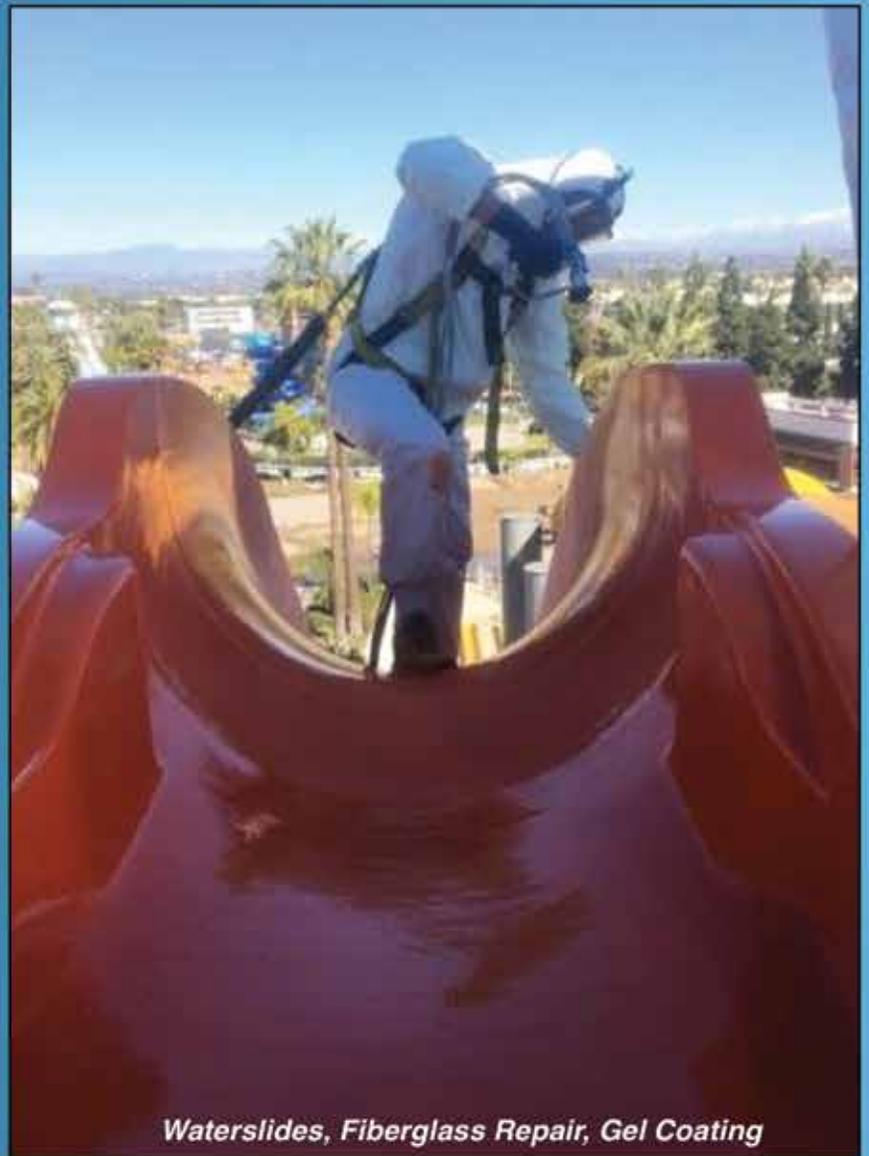
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Some of the instructors/organizers of the Northwest Showmen's Ride Safety Seminar. Front row, from left: Dan Dudley, Ride Safety Consultant; Beverly Burback, Funtastic Traveling Shows; Geraldine Davis, Davis Shows, N.W. and Randall Arndt, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Amusement ride safety inspector. Middle Row: Ray Rieger, Loss Control Services; C.W. Craven, Skyride Enterprises, Inc. and Phil Slaggert, Slaggert Risk management. Back Row: John Lamoreaux, Funtastic Traveling Shows and John Hinde, J.P. Hinde Enterprises.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

SEMINARS Continued from page 30

settings deliver a great environment for learning.

Throughout the seminar, there are times set for attendees to test for NAARSO AIMS certifications. First aid and CPR classes also are offered.

Attendance at the 2018 event was 122.

For more information, visit nwshowmensclub.com.



Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar

This 2019 seminar for amusement ride inspectors is set for Feb. 26-28, at the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg, Pa. The Pennsylvania Department

of Agriculture Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards presents this safety forum twice a year, fall and spring. It has been growing over the last years with an attendance of 311 reported for the 2018 spring seminar.

Seminar participants choose specialty courses they feel are beneficial for their career path, job description, abilities and employer benefit. Last spring, there were a total of 166 different course options. Testing is provided for Class 1 and Class 2 Ride Inspectors and General Qualified Inspectors and Specialized Inspectors.

Some of the course areas include inflatables, rides, haunted attractions, extreme sports, water attractions, go-karts and bumper boats.

The majority of attendees come from Pennsylvania and neighboring states, however, in 2018 there were 23 U.S. states represented.

The inspection testing is independent of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; however, it is sanctioned by them using **Slaggert Risk Management**.

Attendees came from traditional amusement parks, carnivals, family entertainment centers, inflatable operations and extreme sports venues.

The Pennsylvania certification is recognized in many states across the country, including the New Jersey program titled **Recognized Certified Maintenance Technician (RCMT)**.

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12th annual Parks and Carnival Education Seminar draws 71

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

YORK, Pa. — For four days each fall, the **Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association (PAPA)** and the **Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA)**, combine talents and resources to organize the Parks and Carnival Education (PACE) seminar. **Lisa Bartlebaugh**, past president of PSSA, is the seminar administrator, and **Gary Chubb**, PAPA Board Member, is the ride safety seminar coordinator for PAPA. Training, coordinated by **Jack Siler**, outreach coordinator, is provided by **NAARSO (National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials)**, who supplied most of the instructors along with a few industry-related experts.



This year the classroom venue was the **Wyndham Garden York**. The hands-on training day took place at **Majestic Midways** winter quarters in Dover, Pa. This was the first time the instruction visited a traveling show winter quarters. Previously that aspect was covered at a fixed-site park, or portable rides were set up in hotel parking lots. "The trip to Majestic Midways was very well received. Some of the park folks, quite frankly, have never seen traveling rides up close and they've never seen a winter quarters shop like Majestic Midways has," said Chubb.

PACE offers either 24 or 32 hours of inspector training for Pennsylvania Certified Inspectors and/or NAARSO levels, along with re-certification. All training at the PACE Seminar is approved for both Pennsylvania Certified Ride Inspectors and for NAARSO Certified Ride Inspectors. The four-day instruction



Inspectors examining the Wisdom Sizzler ride.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

for Class I and Class II ride inspectors contains numerous days of classroom training. Subjects covered during the 24-hour training include: Wire Rope, Restraint System Inspections, Hydraulic Inspections, Pennsylvania Update Codes and Standards, Bulletins and Alerts, Go Karts, General Midway Inspections, SBF-VISA, Bolt and Metal Failure, Personal Safety, Dynamic Ride Testing, Guest Recovery, Weather, Rust & Corrosion, Portable Coasters, Electrical Safety, KMG Rides, Working Together and Waterslide and Features Inspection.

For attendees who took an additional eight hours of training (for a total of 32 hours), the additional topics included: Wooden Coasters, Trains and Miniature Railways, Safety First, Hrubetz/Eyerly, Specific Ride Inspections and Why Things Fail.

A unique feature of the PACE seminar is the "hands-on" training that supplements classroom instruction. Most attendees consider this portion the highlight of the

seminar. "Majestic Midways did a fantastic job of hosting us," said Chubb. The half-day session (park inspectors in the morning and traveling inspectors in the afternoon) included six rides. **Wisdom Rides Inc.** was represented with three rides outdoors: Alien Abduction, Pirate Island multi-level obstacle course and Sizzler. Inside were an Umbrella ride (**Hampton**), Orient Express coaster (**Wisdom Rides Inc.**) and Crazy Bus (**Zamperla**).

Four Pennsylvania parks participated, including **DelGrosso's**, **Dutch Wonderland**, **Hersheypark** and **Water World**, along with **Pavilion Amusement Park**, Myrtle Beach, S.C., **Ober Gatlinburg**, Tenn. and **Deno's Wonder Wheel Park**, Brooklyn, N.Y. On the traveling side, the list includes: **AEB Amusements**, **Bartlebaugh Amusements**, **Majestic Midways** and **Russ Amusements**, all from the Commonwealth. **Skelly's Amusements**, Williamstown, and **Wizard's Festival of Fun**, Laurel



Some of the dozen instructors for the four-day seminar. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Three Wisdom Rides were set up outside for hands on inspection at Majestic Midways winter quarters in Dover, Pa.: Pirate Island obstacle course, Sizzler and Alien Abduction.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Gary Chubb in the classroom. There were both 24 or 32 hours of inspector training offered for Pennsylvania Certified Inspectors and/or NAARSO levels. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Springs, are both from New Jersey. Also in attendance were representatives from **American Specialty Insurance**, Fort Wayne, Ind., **Edgie Designs**, Dowelltown, Tenn., **Huey's**, Vermont NDT, South Burlington and **Maine State Fire Marshall's Office**, Augusta (the governing agency for ride safety in that state.) The long distance participation award went to **CASY Engineering Consultancy Pte Ltd.**, Singapore.

"We're all about safety

through communication," said Chubb. "This seminar continues that thought. We have some really great people in this industry that continue to put a lot of time and effort into it."

The PACE seminar is an annual outreach program for NAARSO, along with the one coordinated by the **New Jersey Amusement Association** in mid-February each year during the **East Coast Gift and Variety Show**, Atlantic City, N.J. Also this year, a NAARSO Outreach Safety School takes place March 18-22 at the Sheraton Monarch Place in Springfield, Mass., during the 106th NEAAPA Education Conference & Annual Meeting.

NOTE: From 1985 through 2006, this seminar was known as the PA Ride Safety Seminar. In 2007 it became known as the PACE Ride Safety Seminar. On or about 2007, **Phil Slaggert**, a private ride safety consultant, picked up the name of PA Ride Safety Seminar and has been running two additional seminars per year since that time.

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Nearly 200 attend 25th semi-annual Pa. Ride Safety Seminar

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Twice annually, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture trains and tests hundreds of amusement ride inspectors in Pennsylvania, 11 other states and Mexico.

For three days last November, nearly 200 personnel from various amusement operations received safety training conducted by Slaggert Risk Management for the department's Bureau of Rides and Measurements Standards, Amusement Ride Safety Division. The Pennsylvania certification is recognized in many states across the country, including New Jersey's RCMT (Recognized Certified Maintenance Technician) program. There are many inspectors who don't work in Pennsylvania; however, they register in Pennsylvania to have the certification on their ride from inspectors trained in the Keystone State.

Joe Filoramo, ride safety supervisor for the state, was pleased with the uptick in attendance. "It's another record this year. I think people are more ride conscious," he said. "[Facilities] want to have more people onsite that are that are trained professionally for amusement ride safety. A lot of it is turnover in help."

Training was offered for the following levels and categories: Class 1 Inspector, Class 2 Inspector, Independent Inspector, Inflatable Ride Safety, Haunted Attractions and Extreme Sports. Two other organizations offered training and certification at the seminar: Association for Climbing Course Technicians and the



The 191 attendees had 109 different course offerings to choose from when they put together their own customized ride safety training. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

International Association of Trampoline Parks.

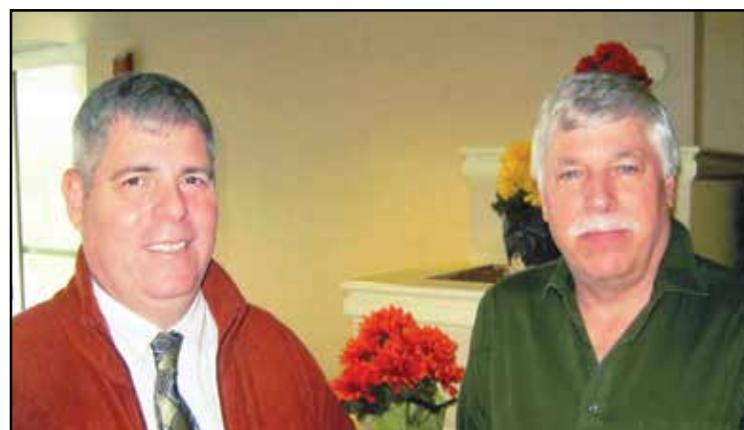
Specific classes included: Lock Out/Tag Out, Anchoring Inspection of Inflatables, Emergency Planning, Welding Safety, Blocking, Leveling and Anchoring, Active Shooter, Metal Fatigue, Corrosion and Rust, Mechanical Bulls and Surf Simulators, Pneumatics, Mobile Rock-Climbing Walls, Weather Protocol, Wooden Coaster Inspections, Hydraulics, Park and Portable Railroads, and Out of Production Rides. Volunteers from across the country comprised the 68 instructors, and they covered a wide spectrum of specialties impacting the amusement industry.

Seminar participants chose the specialty courses that were the most beneficial for their career path, job description, abilities and employer benefit. There were 109 course options varying from one hour to nine hours in length.

Participating companies and organizations included 940 Rock Climb; A&R Rental Center; AEB Inflatable Rentals; Altoona Curve MiLB

Team; Amusement World, Inc.; Backyard Fun; Barn Hill Entertainment, LLC; Bedford True Value Hardware; Big Bright Bounces; Big Fun; Blaster Bouncer Pittsburgh, Inc.; Bob's C.H.S. Express; Bounce House Rentals of Lancaster; Bounce U Exton; B's Outdoor Entertainment; By The Horns, LLC; C&D Outdoor Toys; C&L Shows; Carnival Concessions and Rides; Circus Time Amusements; ELF Entertainment, Inc.; Entertainment Avenue, LLC; EVAH Party Rentals; Family Entertainment Group; Fantasy World Entertainment; Flynn Sports, Inc.; George Entertainment, LLC; Gigliottis Magical Entertainment; Go Ape; Grand Rental of York, Inc.; Hill Billy Fun; Hite Equipment Rental, LLC; Incredible Bounce, LLC; J&R Dunk Tank Rentals; Jen's Ponies and K&J Party Rentals, LLC.

Additional participating companies and organizations were Lancaster Barnstormers Baseball; Lancaster Entertainment Partners, Inc.; Laurel Highlands Rental, Inc.;



Walt Remmert, director of the Bureau of Ride & Measurement Standards, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Phil Slaggert, owner of Slaggert Risk Management, the organization that provides the training, take a break from the activity. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

LHTC Entertainment, Inc.; Marshal Steve's Pony Rides, LLC; Metz Amusements & Concessions, LLC; Muhsian, Inc. / Wonder Rides; NY Partyworks; Outback Roos; Party Pros East Coast, Inc.; Penn Valley Shows; Pennwood Shows; Phantom Shadow Entertainment; Pocono Rocks; Prince Entertainment Group, Inc.; Reading Fightin' Phils; REM Enterprises, Inc.; RentAll Affairs, LLC; Roba Family Farms; Shady Brook Farm; Sir Bounce-A-Lot; Sky Oaks, LLC; Staunch Entertainment; Sumba, LLC; T&K Bouncy House; Talk of the Town; Taylor Rental; Tents & Events, LLC; The Adventure Guild; True Value Plus; United Sports; Valley Forge Promotions; Waldorf Entertainment, LLC; Woodlands Foundation; Wyn, LLC; Xtreme Moon Bounce, LLC; Greater Brandywine; and Jennerstown.

Participating amusement and theme parks were Conneaut Lake Park, Hersheypark, Kennywood Park, Parques de Altura Mexico and Sesame Place.

Entertainment centers, recreation centers, resorts and other venues attending included Altitude Trampoline Park; Blue Mountain Resort; Bouncetown; Camden Children's Garden; Climb-A-Lot Clubhouse; Country Junction; Demon House; Diversion Escape Rooms; Erie Play Port, LLC; Evangelical Free Bible Church; Fly World Trampoline Park; Get Air Pittsburgh; Jumonville Christian Camp & Retreat Center; Kehler's Gymnastics Center, Inc.; Lightning Bug Family Entertainment Center, LLC; Ligonier Camp; Pennsylvania Lions Beacon Lodge Camp; Party Zone for

Kids; Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium; Pymatuning Deer Park; Rebounderz; Refreshing Mountain; Rolling Thunder Skating Center; Urban Air Cranberry and Willow Grove; VIP Kidz Club, LLC; Whitetail Resort; Wildwood Highlands; YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee Spencer and South Mountain; YWCA of Carbondale and Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has inspected and registered amusement rides under the Amusement Ride Safety Act since 1984 and regularly participates in education and outreach seminars that include classes and hands-on demonstrations. The next Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar is scheduled for Feb. 26-28 at the Red Lion Hotel, in Harrisburg, just off I-283 on Lindle Road. The spring training program offers two additional instruction areas: Water Attractions and Go Karts / Bumper Boats.

•paridesafety.com

Note: The Pennsylvania ride safety seminars are not to be confused with the annual PACE (Parks and Carnival Education) seminar, jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA) and the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association (PAPA). That seminar, presented by National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO), is scheduled for late October (date, classroom and hands-on training locations to be determined.) PACE offers inspector training for Pennsylvania Certified Inspectors and/or NAARSO levels. Program information can be found on the PSSA website at pashowmen.com and the PAPA website at paamusementparks.com.



Three of the 68 volunteers who help twice each year (from left): Amanda Adams, partner, Vondriska Leisure Consultants, LLC; Leonard Adams II, Adams Amusements; and Sarah Henderson, Air Castles and Slides. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

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MADE IN THE USA

Ohio's Cedar Point carefully plans its winter maintenance

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Unless a park operates in year-round mode in California or Florida, it most likely has an off-season period. Such months are vital for between-season maintenance.

Cedar Point, located on a peninsula in Lake Erie, has a renowned status for being the Coaster Capital of the World. Its long-running reputation of building world-class roller coasters, as well as having the largest collection of rides in the U.S., takes advantage of its unique location surrounded by the Great Lake in almost all directions. However, when winter arrives, the lakeside setting encounters harsh conditions. Between freezing temperatures, lake-effect snows and often blizzards, the megapark needs an established plan in place to maintain its count-



Monty Jasper

less rides and high-capacity roller coasters.

"The window of opportunity is short [here]. You don't see that in a southern park," said **Monty Jasper**, corporate vice president of safety and engineering, **Cedar Fair**.

Jasper, a mechanical engineering by schooling, grew up in Texas. Starting a career with **Six Flags** he spent 16 years in Houston, a hot and humid climate that dealt with the salty sea air. Upon his

arrival to Cedar Point in 1995, he soon became aware of that short window following the summer season to get the park "winterized."

"A lot of people may not realize that after we close down, we really have only a month to get all the buildings in the park that are not capable of having water in the pipes all blown down," he said. "All the restaurants, all the restrooms, the hotels, merchandise shops — all those things that can't afford to have pipes burst in them — we have to winterize them, and we really only have the month of November to do them. We're running around like crazed wild men to get it done. The mechanics are doing the same thing with the rides. They're ripping everything apart as fast as they can. Nobody wants to be out in the brutal weather to take something apart to work on it indoors."

Jasper stresses that once winter hits and everything freezes, the location on the peninsula can be harsh. It is essential that all needed maintenance take place indoors.

"The caveat to that is construction," Jasper laughs. "Construction is a brutal business on the North Coast."

When asked by *Amusement Today* if there are any lessons to be learned by others who don't experience this environment, Jasper said, "What happens here at Cedar Point, the staff gets used to using those windows of opportunity. They are very hard working. They work 24 hours around the clock in the summer to support this park and continue that into the fall and winter. The next step is to get everything overhauled in that December-through-March timeframe. From March to opening day, we have to get everything back out into the park and set up again."

Cedar Point opens at the beginning of May. Currently, the park has 70 rides.

A small shop in the south part of the park was built when Cedar Point was half the size it is today. Since then, more space off-site was acquired. An old auto dealership turned out to be perfect for moving coaster cars inside in a climate-controlled environ-



Cedar Point's Lake Erie location receives an abundance of winter weather. Park fans attending Winter Chill Out watch Millennium Force vehicles going through off-season maintenance (below). COURTESY CEDAR POINT



ment. Jasper says a large contingent of the maintenance staff works on the mainland during the winter months. An indirect safety benefit to this is the removal of the need to use the entrance drive to Cedar Point, an elongated causeway over the water which can be treacherous when frozen over.

"The biggest thing to learn is you don't wait, you don't drag your heels on something," said Jasper. "They clean the park prior to the snow falling. They get all the leaves and landscaping out of the flower beds. It just makes your job that much easier in the spring."

Much of the work in the winter is simply snow removal to get to offices and work stations to get work done.

Parts for the winter overhaul are ordered as early as July. Planning and purchases take place in the summer and schedules begin being built. New rides are immediately figured into the schedule.

Wooden coaster track-work is considered the harsh-

est of the maintenance jobs as it must take place on the ride site. Weather might affect its scheduling.

Having facilities where maintenance teams are comfortable is key according to Jasper. "They get more done," he said. "Progress lags and efficiency drops when it is difficult for them."

On a side note, the park incorporates a special event dubbed Winter Chill Out in February. The park's biggest fans can witness the maintenance and other behind-the-scenes work happening at the park. The event annually sells out and raises approximately \$50,000 for **A Kid Again**, one of Cedar Point's charities.

Cedar Point opens May 11 and immediately begins daily operation through Labor Day. Weekend operation takes place through Halloween. Then, the cyclical process begins again.

"The winter calls the tune as far as the schedule goes. It is a choreographed dance to get this place overhauled in the winter and then get it back open again," said Jasper.

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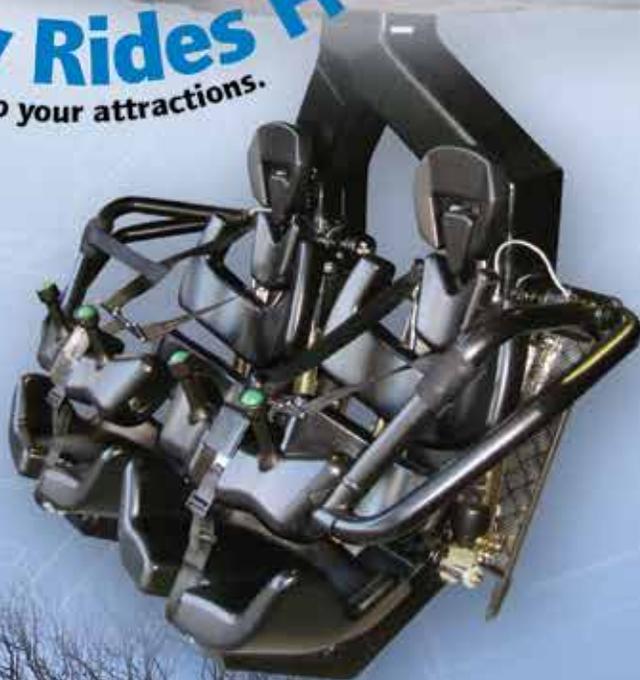
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- Oct. 7-10: **WWA Trade Show**, Orlando, Fla. (Disney)
- Nov. 19-22: **IAAPA Attractions Expo**, Orlando, Fla.

Have a Calendar event listing you want to share?
Email it to:

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Best wishes for a happy and safe 2019 from AIMS International!

The **2019 AIMS Safety Seminar** kicks off the New Year on Jan. 13 in Galveston, Texas, where more than 400 students and 100 instructors will convene for five days of classes, networking and certification testing.

As a nonprofit organization, **AIMS International** is dedicated to improving safety in the amusement industry through leadership in education. Our reputation for the excellent quality of our seminar program is due to our volunteer instructors — more than 100 industry professionals who share their expertise with our students in more than 200 class hours during the seminar week. This commitment to safety education and training in the amusement industry is priceless. We cannot begin to thank our instructors enough for the hours spent in preparation to bring students the latest and best information on safety issues and standards.

We are also grateful to those who

volunteer their time and expertise in assembling this outstanding group of instructors and shaping our seminar curriculum — the **AIMS Education Committee**. Led by Chairman **John Jachim** and AIMS Safety Seminar Manager **Holly Coston**, the 2019 Safety Seminar Education Committee includes **Anna Lisa Bacon, Nicole Walker, Joe Zdunek, John Hanschen, Liz Nemeth, David Bromilow, Andy McNeeley, Randy Vakeiner** and **Adam Hickey**.

Thank you, seminar sponsors!

On behalf of the AIMS board of directors and the entire amusement industry, we are especially grateful for those companies who support the work and mission of AIMS International as sponsors of the 2019 AIMS Safety Seminar.

At press time, our sponsors include:

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Membership meeting

The annual AIMS International membership meeting will take place during the safety seminar on Jan. 14, 5:30 p.m., at the **Hilton Galveston Island Resort**. All members are invited to attend. Not a member? Join now and help further our efforts to promote safety in the amusement industry. Please visit our website for a description of our membership categories and application.

Feedback requested

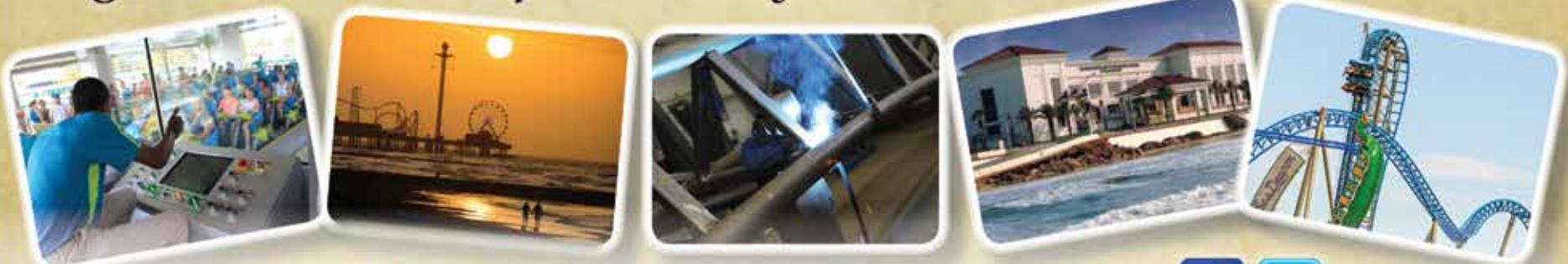
Planning for the **2020 AIMS Safety Seminar** will begin almost immediately after the 2019 event concludes on Jan. 18. Please send your ideas and suggestions for classes and improvements to info@aimsintl.org. We want to hear from you!

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.

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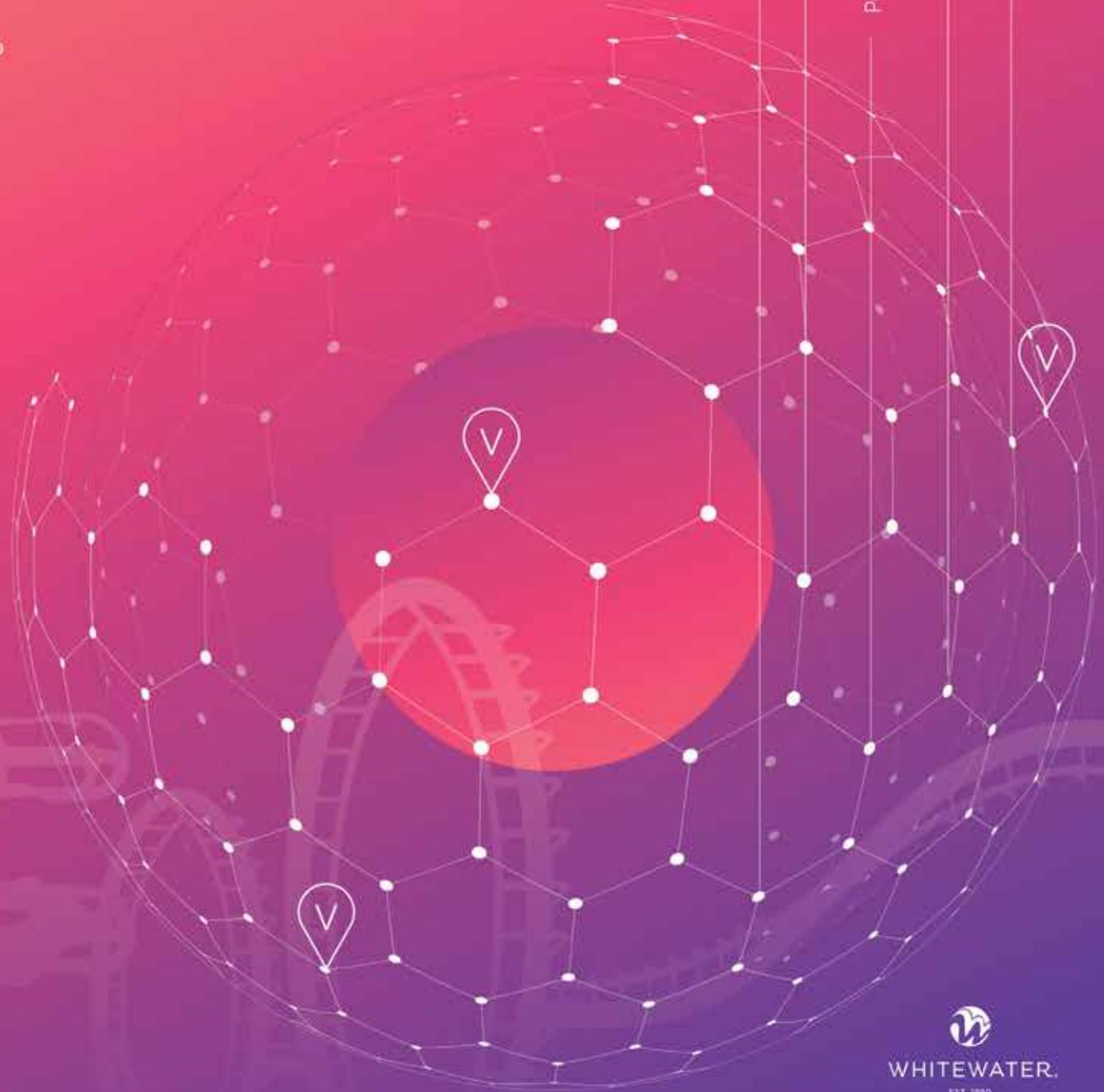
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House of Air co-founder David Schaeffer honored by ASTM Intl.



David Schaeffer (foreground), co-founder with Paul McGeehan (rear) of House of Air Trampoline Parks, has been lauded for leading an ASTM International task group revising a practice for trampoline courts. COURTESY HOUSE OF AIR

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — **David Schaeffer**, co-founder of **House of Air Trampoline Parks**, has been honored with the Award of Appreciation by **ASTM International's** committee on amusement rides and devices (F24).

A member since 2012, Schaeffer was recognized this past fall for his hard work and dedication in leading a task group revising a practice for trampoline courts.

Together with **Paul McGeehan**, Schaeffer founded House of Air in San Francisco in 2009. He previously served as a project manager for **The North Face** and as board chairman for the **International Association of Trampoline Parks**. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from **Brown University**.

In addition to ASTM International, Schaeffer is a member of the **International Association of Amusement**

Parks and Attractions and the International Association of Trampoline Parks.

Committed to serving global societal needs, ASTM International works toward positively impacting public health and safety, consumer confidence and overall quality of life through the integration of consensus standards developed with the organization's international membership of volunteer technical experts.

•astm.org

Students begin study program at Gold Medal

CINCINNATI, Ohio — In a collaborative community effort, **Cincinnati Public Schools** and the **Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber** recently created a new program designed to introduce high school juniors and seniors to careers in manufacturing.

The pre-apprenticeship program provides paid, on-the-job learning with regional business partners, including **Gold Medal Products Co.**, **Allied Window** and **Steinhauser, Inc.**

Students were selected based on an interest in the manufacturing industry, GPA, attendance, teachers' recommendations, and an application and interview process.

Gold Medal has welcomed three students: **Jimeir Hales**, **Donneisha Hill** and **Ar'reona Reed-Parker**. Each student has been assigned a production lead to teach them the skills for their assigned duties, while an additional mentor also is available to assist.

The program lasts until the end of the school year.

•gmpopcorn.com

Calif. increases inspection fees for portable rides

On Oct. 15, **CAL/OSHA** raised its Portable Amusement Ride fees, which cover all work performed in connection with audits; inspections; re-inspections; approvals; determinations; certifications and re-certifications; and receipt and review of certificates or reports. The new rate is \$206 per hour. Updated language associated with the increase can be located in the California Code of Regulations, section 344.18. Visit dir.ca.gov/title8/344_18.html.

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- Air Bladders are Repairable
- Low Profile, Machined Inflation Valves
- Hull is Lightweight, Yet Extremely Durable
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Removable Bladder System

Collars are constructed with a removable air bladder system comprised of multiple air bladders inside a durable outer hull. Bladders are made with a strong urethane material and are removable for easy replacement. Although the bladders are constructed with tough urethane, if they do need replacement, the bladders can be removed and replaced while the hull is still on the collar for a quick and easy procedure. Air Bladders can also be easily repaired on site if needed.



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Before



After



After

Tork EasyCube helps Kentucky Kingdom keep facilities clean



The data-driven facilities cleaning and maintenance solution offered by Tork EasyCube software has streamlined and prioritized the efforts of cleaning staff at Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay. COURTESY TORK/ESSITY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The quality of the guest experience is key to customer satisfaction and loyalty at amusement parks. But keeping a park clean can be a difficult task. Much staff effort is required to maintain multiple high-traffic restrooms and other facilities, especially when they are spread across a large swath of real estate.

At **Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay**, keeping facilities clean and stocked was

once a particularly troublesome part of operations. The 63-acre park has more than 70 amusement rides and rollers coasters, plus 20 water park attractions, and it can see more than 9,000 visitors a day during peak summer season.

Like most parks, Kentucky Kingdom also faces common challenges in hiring, training and motivating cleaning staff. It came across **Tork EasyCube** facility management software while looking for a comprehen-

sive solution. The facility management software provides, among other functions, actionable data that enables park services managers and staff to address cleaning and supply refilling in a proactive manner.

The system consists of connected devices that provide real-time information. Through tablets, smart phones or any internet-enabled device, supervisors and cleaners are presented with a snapshot of which areas of a facility need attention and what supplies are needed. It can result in savings of 20 percent or more in cleaning time and a more purposeful, less stressful workday for cleaning staff.

Kentucky Kingdom uses Tork EasyCube to access data collected from 163 connected devices installed throughout the park. The software monitors supply levels and the number of guests visiting each park zone, alerting staff to cleaning needs in prioritized order.

According to **Jake Allgeier**, park services manager, Tork EasyCube has been especially helpful on busy weekends, when traffic fluctuations between park zones can vary by the thousands. "My staff loves it, and we are using our time more efficiently because we no longer need to check each dispenser physically," he said. "That's an awesome benefit."

Jessi O'Daniel, senior manager of guest relations for Kentucky Kingdom, noted that introducing Tork EasyCube has been advantageous on many fronts — including reporting and analytics as well as over-seeing staff.

"The system has aided the entire stocking and maintenance process," O'Daniel said. "It guides our staff workflow because it's based on what areas and supplies are actually being used. And thanks to park management gaining access to all daily actions from the online data, we now have visibility into staff accomplishments. Those insights are [leading to] better-informed decisions and driving adjustments in planning."

Tork EasyCube, a brand of Stockholm, Sweden-based **Essity**, a global hygiene and health company, includes customer support by Tork staff. For more information, visit torkusa.com.

—Dean Lamanna

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Safety-related exhibitors share floor, spotlight at WWA Show

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS — Amid all the splashy fun on display at the 38th annual **World Waterpark Association Symposium & Trade Show (WWA Show)**, held Oct. 23-26 at **Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino**, there was a consistent focus on the industry's top priority: safety.

Products and services supporting aquatic safety were presented by numerous exhibitors. Along with an array of water park and pool equipment, they included lifeguard supplies, lifesaving training, emergency medical services (EMS) equipment and personal care products — all aimed at keeping guests safe and comfortable.

Making its first appearance at WWA Show, **CPR Savers & First Aid Supply** was on hand to promote safety as well as build a new client base within the water park industry. The Scottsdale, Ariz.-based company, founded by and for EMS personnel, has worked primarily with lifeguard agencies, fire departments, hospitals, schools and governmental agencies. Business clients include **Boeing, Chevron, Continental**

Airlines, NBC and Virgin Galactic.

"Along with lifeguard equipment and supplies, and we also do CPR training, first-aid training and AED [automated external defibrillator] training," said **Stephanie Johnson**, operations manager. "For the training, we go to the client's location or invite them to ours."

The company's mission is to ensure the health and safety of families and businesses. "Training is extremely important at water parks," Johnson said. "We want people to be able to revive the life of a child or adult in an emergency, and also to ensure that all properties have safety equipment onsite, such as an AED. When the patient goes into cardiac arrest, it's extremely important to have the proper knowledge and equipment in the interim before the first responders get to the site."

The goal of **The Lifeguard Store**, based in Normal, Ill., is to provide lifeguards and facility operators with quality products that also fit their budgets. Serving the aquatics industry since 1992, the company stocks everything from life jackets



Faithanne Molyneux and Amy Hilten of The Lifeguard Store show off their company's rescue tubes (top right), while **Eddie Gulbenkian of Kemp USA** (bottom right) has his customer's emergency supplies / equipment toting needs "in the bag." **CPR Savers & First Aid Supply** offers an extensive automated external defibrillator (AED) line (above).
AT/DEAN LAMANNA;
CPR SAVERS & FIRST AID SUPPLY (AED)

to personal gear to safety and safety-training equipment.

"We've all been part of the industry in various ways, so we're able to guide our customers by looking at who their client population is and what



their needs are, and then helping them get the most effective use of their budget dollars," said **Faithanne Molyneux**, water park and resort sales representative. "Our website is

also a place where the small-town lifeguard who doesn't have access to a big-box store can purchase authentic life-

▶ See WWA, page 49

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►WWA**Continued from page 48**

guard wear."

Residential pool owners make up a portion of The Lifeguard Store's business. "We have test kits, rafts and tubes — products people want and need at home," Molyneaux said. "We're really someplace for everyone to look who is interested in the water."

Lifeguards and EMS personnel need a convenient, water-resistant way to haul their gear and life-saving equipment. Enter **Kemp USA**, which supplies durable backpacks, hip packs and bags designed for this purpose.

"Bags are a very important thing, and people want stuff that lasts," said **Eddie Gulbenkian**, president of the Charlotte, N.C.-based company, which has been in business for 12 years. "We manufacture under the labels of other companies, which is why a lot of people haven't heard of us. But in the past year or two, we've been pushing the Kemp brand out more and more."

Kemp's packs and bags are made of heavy-duty nylon. They can be purchased empty or the company will stock them with the needed first aid, life-saving equipment and EMS supplies for the customer. "We do sell most of the materials to go in them," said Gulbenkian, whose clients also include pool dealers throughout the U.S. and Latin America. "We started getting involved in stuffing them because we got so many requests."

Several of Kemp's popular premium bags feature a pull-out kneepad that any emergency medical technician (EMT) would find useful. "A lot of times, EMTs will come to a situation where they don't know what they're kneeling on — whether it's gravel or blood or broken glass. They can throw this down and they're good to go."

Athletes and others who spend time in the water, whether for recreational or lifeguarding purposes, have found the products of **SBR Sports, Inc.**, beneficial, according to **Jeff Hubeli**, account executive for the Santa Ana, Calif.-based company. And attendees at WWA Show certainly enjoyed picking up samples of SBR's TriSwim line of salon-quality, chlorine- and saltwater-out shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion, among other

offerings.

"When you spend time in chlorinated water, you can get an itchy scalp, dry skin and just that overall chlorine odor, which doesn't rinse or wash out of your hair easily," Hubeli said. "Our product is designed specifically to deal with that. The shampoo even helps alleviate eczema and dandruff."

The company's other products, all of which are made in the U.S., include anti-fog towelettes for sports goggles and diving masks, and a skin

lubricant for athletes of any level that helps prevent blistering and chafing.

Former **Ironman** triathlete **Karen Allard**, SBR's founder and CEO, started the company 14 years ago when she saw a void in personal care products for athletes and the physically active. Today, SBR enjoys partnerships with the U.S. **Swim School Association**, **U.S. Masters Swimming** and **Masters Swimming Canada**, and its products are in more than 350 swim schools world-

wide.

WWA Show 2019 takes place in Orlando Oct. 7-10, with the trade show running Oct. 8-9, at **Walt Disney World Resort**. Visit WWA's website for information.

•wwashow.org

Jeff Hubeli, account executive for **SBR Sports, Inc.**, displays the commercially popular pump size of the company's **TriSwim** chlorine- and saltwater-out body wash.

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Escape room fire codes in focus at HauntCon

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

NEW ORLEANS — Representatives of the **National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)** are scheduled to appear at the 2019 **Haunted Attraction National Trade Show & Convention (HauntCon)** to introduce new, mandatory fire codes for escape room attractions in the U.S.

The trade show runs Jan. 25-27 at the **Ernest N. Morial Convention Center** in New Orleans.

NASFM comprises the most senior fire officials in the country. State fire marshals are primarily responsible for fire safety code adoption and enforcement; fire and arson investigation; fire incident data reporting and analysis; public education; and advising state governors and legislatures on fire protection.

HauntCon is a leading annual networking event for the owners and operators of haunted attractions and serves as a launching pad for new products and services. It



includes more than 70 hours of presentations and educational sessions.

“Our primary goal is to arm haunted attraction and escape room owners and operators with the tools they need to run a successful business,” said **Liz Irving**, senior vice president of marketing for HauntCon. “We are happy to work with NASFM so that they can meet directly with haunters and exhibitors to explain the new codes that will be in place for escape games in 2019.”

Louisiana State Fire Marshal **Butch Browning** will present two sessions — one geared toward escape game



owners and managers, and the other for manufacturers and exhibitors who make props and products for the attractions.

On Jan. 24, Browning will present an exclusive session for exhibitors that will describe the new codes that apply to props, décor and products for escape games. This session will be complimentary to all exhibitors, who will be able to ask questions about the new regulations and how to ensure that their products meet the new codes.

The second session to be presented by Browning, on Jan. 26, will address the new codes from the perspective of escape room and haunt attraction owners and managers. He will explain the codes' importance and the need for compliance in order for an attraction to pass fire inspec-

tion. Owners and managers can attend this complimentary session with their HauntCon badge.

“We have the same goals as owners and operators of escape rooms — and that is to make the attractions safe and enjoyable for visitors so they want to return,” said **Philip Oakes**, a representative of NASFM. “We know that new regulations are sometimes met with questions, and we’re excited for the opportunity to come to HauntCon to be able to talk with owners directly about these regulations.”

HauntCon 2019, owned by Trumbull-Conn.-based **Clarion UX**, will be co-located with the **Halloween & Party Expo**. With more than 100 exhibitors lined up, this year’s event also features educational sessions on business, marketing, design, staff training and makeup, as well as behind-the-scenes tours of haunt attractions.

Visit HauntCon online for registration and additional information.

• hauntcon.com

FAA measure may impact drone use

WASHINGTON, D.C.— In October, the **U.S. Congress** passed the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** Reauthorization bill, H.R. 302. The reauthorization lasts through fiscal year 2023.

It attempts to establish a framework for safely integrating unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drones, more fully into the national airspace. Two provisions impact the attractions industry:

- The Applications for Designation provision establishes a process whereby fixed-site entities, including amusement parks, can petition to limit the flight of unauthorized UAS above their facilities, remains largely unchanged with the exception that a new deadline for the Administrator to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the federal register was set for March 31, 2019.

- Clarifying that recreational drone users no longer have a blanket exemption from UAS rules and regulations.

The bill represents a starting point for development of UAS rules and regulations.

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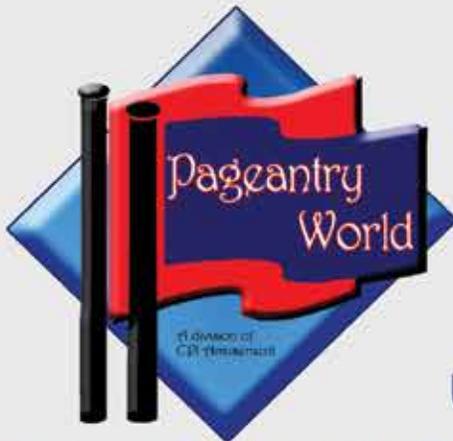
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Safe Zone debuts detection system at CES 2019

Economically priced, versatile technology issues rapid warning

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Underscoring a growing security market need for an economical gunfire detection system that — from theme parks to resort hotels — can be installed easily in any public location, technology startup **Safe Zone** will introduce its Safe Zone Gunfire Detector at **Consumer Electronics Show 2019 (CES 2019)**, taking place in Las Vegas at the **Las Vegas Convention Center** Jan. 8-11.

The system is designed to detect, analyze and report gunfire to local authorities within seconds — saving time that can save lives.

“This is the active shooter security breakthrough a very troubled world has been waiting for,” said **Mike Anderson**, president of Safe Zone. “Unlike the handful



of older, slower and more expensive solutions currently available, the Safe Zone system responds within 10 seconds to an active shooter situation, analyzing the on-the-ground situation and automatically communicating with all key personnel, from first responders to school administrators to parents and management.”

According to Anderson, statistics show that it takes an average of five minutes for police to be notified of an active shooter situation by someone on the scene because of the chaos and danger. “We knew we could build something better and far more affordable that would save more lives,” he said.

Designed and manufactured in the U.S. and affordably priced at \$149 per unit, the Safe Zone Gunfire Detector combines the latest infrared and sound detection technologies with immediate cloud-based data analysis. It is a small triangular unit that mounts in a ceiling corner and provides detection for an area of up to 9,000 square feet. Unlike other gunfire detection solutions, it can be connected to third-party alarm, surveillance, door lock and mass notification systems.

Safe Zone’s advanced machine-learning algorithms analyze more than 3,000 data points of each loud noise that exceeds ambient levels by a certain threshold. False alarms, such as car backfires, firecrackers or popping balloons, are filtered out through their distinct acoustic signatures.

By utilizing the data from multiple detectors simultaneously, the system

determines the location of shots fired, the number of shots, and the type and caliber of firearm. An alert is sent to the appropriate public safety access points, giving local 911 dispatchers all the critical information right on their computer.

“The system immediately notifies anyone with the Safe Zone app, plus anyone on pre-built email and text message lists, helping people onsite to avoid encountering the shooters,” explained **John Anderson**, the company’s chief technology officer. “By knowing the location of a shooter and their capabilities, first responders can be properly prepared and bystanders can get to a safe zone.”

The system was developed by **Avidea Group, Inc.** For more information, visit CES 2019, booth #25708 (South Hall 2), or see online at safezonetech.com.

—Dean Lamanna

Morey’s Piers’ latest attraction is solar power

WILDWOOD, N.J. — In October, **Morey’s Piers & Beachfront Waterparks** flipped the switch to power 36,300 square feet of maintenance buildings solely through 900-plus solar panels.

The panels are installed on the four maintenance buildings located on the former **Hunt’s Pier** at 2710 Boardwalk.

The installation of solar power signifies the Morey organization’s continued commitment to improve sustainability and conservation on its three amusement piers.

“The system will produce more than 410,000 kilowatts per year, realizing more than \$53,000 in energy savings annually,” said **Will Morey**, second-generation park owner. “Over a 30-year period, this will reduce CO₂ emissions by 337 tons — the environmental equivalent of taking 12.4 million miles off the road or planting 126,000 trees.”

Added second-generation owner **Jack Morey**: “We take our stewardship of this mile of pristine beach we enjoy so much very seriously, and the six-figure investment in this solar panel project was the right thing to do this year, no doubt.”

New Jersey-based **Geoscape Solar** designed the project and installed the panels.

“Morey’s Piers has always been a New Jersey name synonymous with family,” said Lee Watson, COO and partner at Geoscape COO. “We were thrilled that Morey’s chose Geoscape Solar to partner with to achieve their long-term financial and environmental goals.”

Used year-round by a staff of 57 in season, the maintenance buildings house workshops for repairs, tests, painting, carpentry, and updates of all components of the rides and facilities throughout the three piers.

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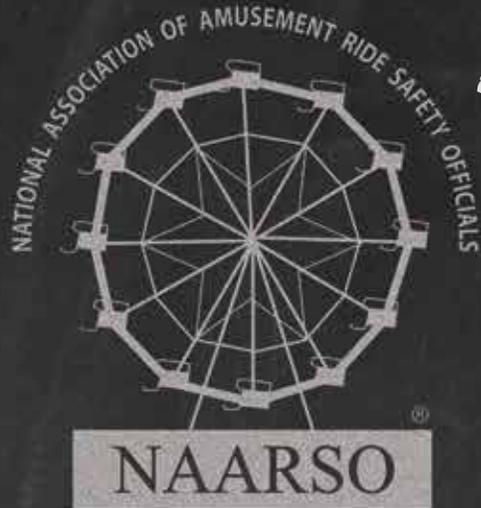
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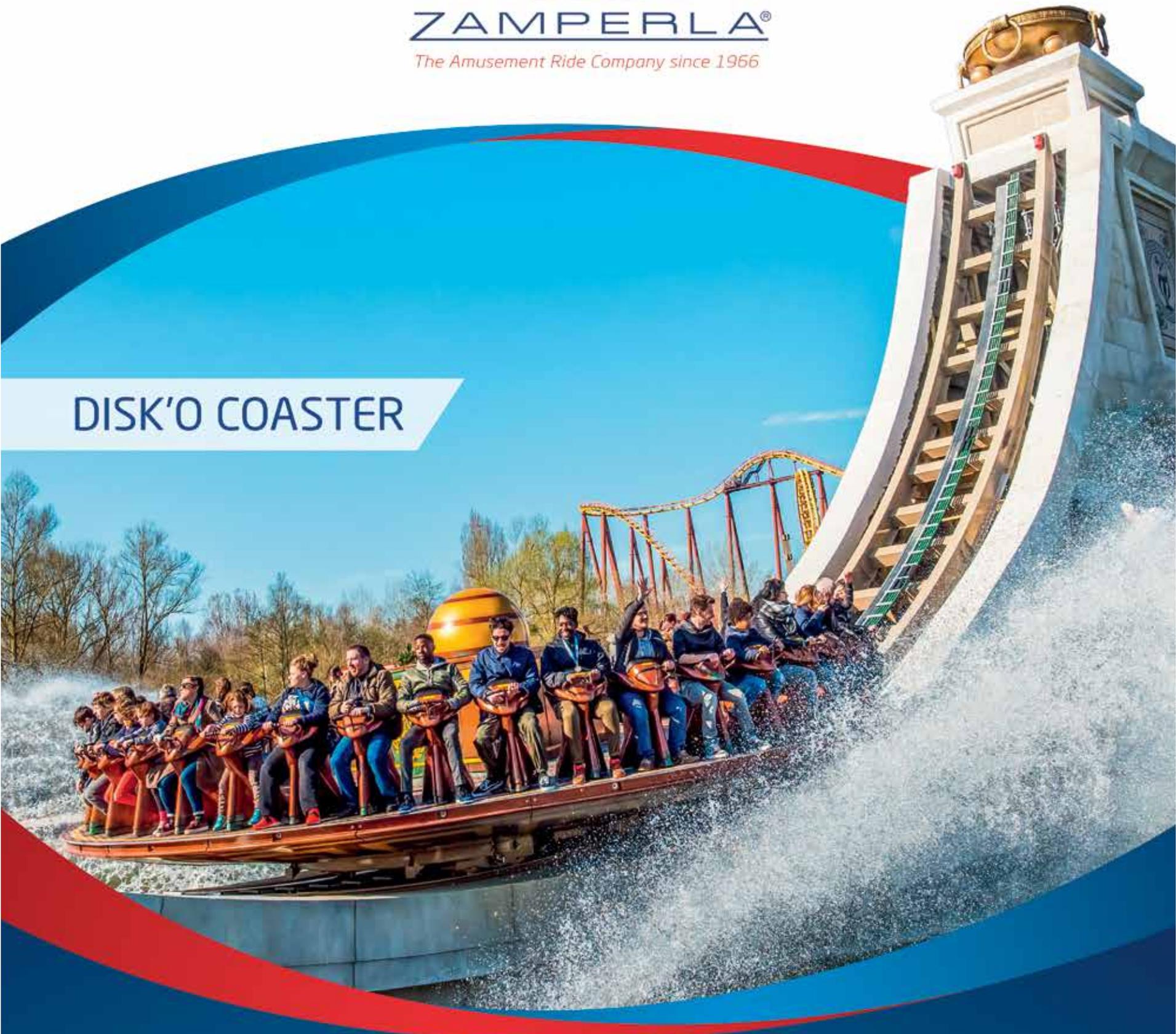
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IAAPA exhibitors expand beyond trade show walls

Record attendance brings booming business to Attractions Expo

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO — Piercing the 40,000-person attendance barrier for the first time, an estimated 42,000 attendees set a new trade show record for IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018, held Nov. 12-16. Crowds were so thick at one point that the staff at the Orange County Convention Center had a difficult time keeping up with the heavy foot traffic.

Be it flying cotton candy, cars transforming into robots or inflatable poop, there was always something to grab the attention of the thousands of attendees walking ten miles of aisles.

Attendance wasn't the only record shattered. Exhibiting space expanded to new dimensions as 1,151 companies displayed products and services not only wall to wall inside the Orange County Convention Center, but also in a custom-built exhibition space outside the trade show doors in an area called Exploration Station. 140 exhibitors filled this expansion.

During the Kickoff Event, IAAPA revealed its new logo and branding that officially launched Jan. 1. "Our goal is to evaluate and refine the IAAPA brand to ensure that it reflects a truly global IAAPA of today and prepares the association for the future," said Jeff Klocke, chairman of the IAAPA Branding Task Force.

The celebratory event energized close to 2,000 professionals with the introduction of



Record attendance kept aisles busy at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018. COURTESY IAAPA

Hall of Fame inductees, a recap of exhilarating new attractions from 2018 and an encouraging update on the state of the industry.

Liseberg announced the winner of its semi-annual Applause Award during the Kickoff Event. This year's recipient was Xcaret, a theme park on Mexico's Riviera Maya. Miguel Quintana Pali, president and CEO of Grupo Experincias Xcaret accepted the award. "I never thought that doing what you love to do every day — to show the beauty of my country, the culture of my country — I would be able to pursue this important distinction," he said.

Prior to the Tuesday opening of the trade show floor, more than 15,000 people participated in the 149 education classes and workshops.

"We got relevant education that we can actually apply to

operations," commented Bob Williams, general manager, Calaway Park.

"The Expo attendees really enjoy the educational sessions. You can tell by how engaged they are, particularly in the Q&A section of each session," Sondra Woods, advertising director, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, told Amusement Today. "We really saw a lot of excellent questions come from attendees. As a professional and a presenter, it is amazing to see how willing and excited parks are to share their great ideas to help others in the industry. It really is a team effort."

The week-long event offered countless networking opportunities, be it private functions put on by exhibitors, organized IAAPA activities and special ticketed breakfast and lunch sessions. More than 3,600 people attended the IAAPA Celebrates social

at Universal Studios Orlando, which featured an exclusive performance by rock band Barenaked Ladies.

Of the record attendance, 26,600 were qualified buyers

from around the world.

"This year we had more prearranged meetings than ever," said Lauren Wood Weaver, marketing director, Sally Corp. "We had meetings with the right people, and we met new people every day."

Commenting on the strength of the industry, Dick Chance of Chance Rides said, "We have the best backlog we've had in at least ten years. From indications here at the show, there are a lot more projects coming in the future."

"I never see enough while I am here," said Will Morey, co-owner, Morey's Piers. "I had some great conversations that will move some projects forward in the future."

The IAAPA Expo for 2019 will take place at the Orange County Convention Center once again, Nov. 18-22.



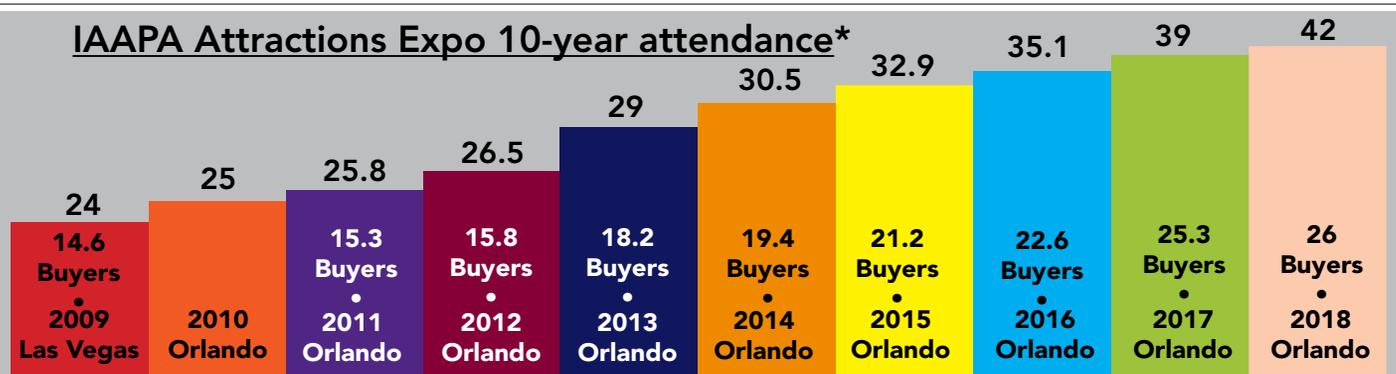
Attendees gathered to watch a car with two riders transform into a gigantic robot (left) that moved around the Sansei Technologies booth. Flying cotton candy (right) would captivated passersby. AT/JEFF SEIFERT; TIM BALDWIN



FASTFACTS



IAAPA Attractions Expo 10-year attendance*



*in thousands (AT Research)

Ride manufacturers display newest looks and innovations

AT: Tim Baldwin

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ORLANDO — The familiar flash and fiberglass, steel and stamina, and models and meetings were all alive and well at the IAAPA Attractions Expo. The trade show floor was busy, particularly the first two days, where finding space to even stroll the aisles often became challenging.

Overall, exhibitors found the health of the industry continued to be robust. With contracts signed for projects several years out, IAAPA's slogan of "Fun Forward" was certainly applicable.

Dynamic Attractions will be debuting a new coaster concept in Malaysia. The Dual Power Coaster adds a new layer of thrill with the ability to simulate "spin outs" while traversing coaster track. Four degrees of freedom — side-to-side roll, up-and-down heave, directional change heading and forward direction — will combine with linear synchronous motors for bursts of speed into a completely new coaster-like experience.

Guy Nelson, CEO of Dynamic Attractions, said, "We've won the Best New Attraction Award four years in a row. We are bringing some of those concepts online now. The Special Effects Coaster is coming to **Ferrari World**. That's really going to change the way we think about indoor coasters. The dueling coaster has all been shipped to site [in Malaysia] to install. That's going to be another spectacular ride. The flying theater open-



This Nickelodeon-themed coaster car (left) will be seen at American Dream Meadowlands in New Jersey in 2019. The vehicle on the Dynamic Attractions' Dual Power Coaster (right) is powered and moves along with the motion on the track layout.

COURTESY DYNAMIC ATTRACTINS; AT/TIM BALDWIN

ing at the same park seats 72. They've done a great job with the movie; it's really bright. It's going to accentuate why our flying theater is so popular. For us, to see those innovations come to life and win the next new award is what we are excited about when we look at '19."

Dynamic Attractions and **Chance Rides** have also formed a new partnership. Each company offers mutual benefits, Dynamic Attractions with its engineering expertise and Chance Rides with its manufacturing capabilities.

"It's very energizing. We met Guy Nelson about a year ago," said **Dick Chance**, president, Chance Rides. "We talked about future projects. He and I have similar steel manufacturing backgrounds. We kind of 'clicked.' We got to talking how we could work together



4-DOF MOTION PLATFORM
PROVIDES THRILLING VEHICLE MOVEMENT SIMULATION

to benefit both companies. We have classic rides, but we've invested in the new manufacturing technology. We thought if we [worked] together it would be mutually beneficial. We're doing some work for them on their projects because they need the capacity."

Chance Rides has invested in new equipment that can take 3-D models and turn them into themed ride vehicles or one-off props. A rocket ship was displayed which will be utilized on a Jimmy Neutron attraction at the **American Dream Meadowlands** mall project in New Jersey. Chance said the equipment was originally acquired to aid in carousel horse manufacturing, but soon realized it opened up countless theming opportunities.

Elsewhere in the mall is going to be a Chance Rides roller coaster. A coaster car was on display at the booth detailed with 'splat' theming.

"This family coaster is a brand-new design for us," said Chance. "We've built smaller kiddie coasters and larger hyper coasters before. This is right in the middle. We're looking for a very family-oriented ride. It's thrilling enough for adults — it goes about 40 mph — it's a fun, smooth ride that everyone wants to ride. We're predicting our coaster will have the highest ridership of any ride in the park because it has the widest market appeal."

Speaking of coasters, **Intamin** did something unheard of before. The press announcement at the booth made public two projects for 2021 with the parks' blessing. Set for **Parc Astérix** and **Walibi Belgium**, the multi-ele-

ment coasters look to combine so many thrilling elements they are sure to be worldwide draws. The installation in France is billed to have the most coaster elements (30 unique elements) and the most airtime on any steel coaster. The Belgian attraction will feature some world's first maneuvers and will be the tallest roller coaster in France and Belgium.

A new tower ride concept for Intamin was **Face Down Bungee**. "The inspiration came from Sky Jump [face-down drop tower], such as the installations at **Busch Gardens Tampa** and **Grona Lund**," said **Sascha Czibulka**, executive vice president. "The idea was for it to be a smaller attraction with obviously a smaller price tag. Because of the lower height, we thought about adding the bouncing in the sky-diving position. Because with the bouncing, we have slower speeds. It is fast enough to be thrilling, but we can keep the riders in the facedown position. But we still have the big drop finale at the end."

Czibulka said new flume projects were on the horizon and that inquiries into updating former flume rides have been coming in. "Sometimes it is the lift system; technology has changed. A new restraint with some high-speed rides may be recommended if not mandatory," he told AT. "Adding camelback drops or changes of direction can

The airplane-themed lead car for Kentucky Flyer was revealed by
The Gravity Group.
AT/TIM BALDWIN

update an older flume. If you can use existing infrastructure and reduce construction costs, there are still advantages compared to doing something completely new."

Vekoma has an incredible list of coaster projects going in, and that's just the ones it is allowed to talk about.

Charlotte van Etten, account manager, was excited about the company's new logo and the portfolio book. "This is my life work," she laughed. "I'm excited about it and the new website that went online [at the beginning of the show]."

The company's new product line is finding homes around the globe. Three Hyper Space Warp looping coasters are going in for 2019, plus a Firestorm and a Space Warp, all in China. A Top Gun launched coaster is going in for 2020. Vekoma also has a brand-new train design for an upcoming flying coaster but could not discuss it until its home park has released all details.

The Family Boomerang continues to be a hot seller with five installations slated for this season. Two new Suspended Family Coasters are going in as well, one in China and one at **Dollywood**. All this is just a portion of new projects the company has on deck.

"We have projects out into '22 and '23. We have a great future," van Etten told AT. "We are very proud of the new production methods."

"We've had plenty of foot traffic," said **Hunter Novotny**, engineer, **Larson International**. "There's a lot of interest in our new projects — the Giga Loop and the wheel we are putting in the mall in Canada. It's a hubless wheel that has high capacity and a low footprint. It'll be interesting to see where

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Work at Nagashima Spa Land is ongoing by RMC on a massive steel track design on the park's former wooden coaster (left). Football fans are sure to appreciate the thematic design of S&S' new vehicle for The Steel Curtain (center) at Kennywood. ParadoxVR by Frontgrid had attendees taking flight at the Simworx booth (right). AT/TIM BALDWIN

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it goes. We've also had a lot of feedback on our custom rides we've done, primarily on the Tilt-A-Whirl."

The Christie booth had a one-of-a-kind product on the show floor. A multi-point-of-view projection allows four people to see four different things while watching the same screen, each one a player in an interactive racing game. Even as some players complete their chosen race, content is still being displayed while others complete their course.

"This could fit anyone [in the industry], but I think the family entertainment center will find this as a simple solution," said Patrick Ellis, senior account manager.

For theme parks, Christie has introduced its latest RGB



Big Bird greeted IAAPA attendees at the Sally press announcement and throughout the week.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

laser projectors. The company has worked with major theme parks for projections, and the latest technology boasts highly saturated colors and virtually maintenance-free operation.

Sally Corp. brought smiles to many passersby. Unveiling a giant Big Bird animatronic, the company is working on a new dark ride for PortAventura World in Spain based on a Sesame Street theme in a dedicated area of the park called SesamoAventura. The custom dark ride will feature a show length of more than 15 minutes: a 10-minute preshow and a ride length of close to six minutes. Numerous animatronic characters, immersive scenery and interactive play on eight projection screens and more than 2,000 targets are expected to captivate guests.

"This is Sesame's first dark ride in Europe. It's really exciting for us," said Ed Wells, senior vice president, Sesame Workshop. "PortAventura and Sally have done an amazing job of capturing the true essence of the Sesame Street brand. For 50 years our lovable cast of characters have been seen in 150 countries in 30 languages."

"Our design team traveled to New York City to go to the Sesame Workshop to video the characters to act out the things we will be doing in CGI," said John Wood, CEO, Sally Corp. "We are working with the Sesame Workshop to create the costumes for the animatronic figures. What the fans see on TV will appear before their eyes on this dark ride."

Alterface will be working with Sally Corp. on the Sesame Street ride at PortAventura. "We believe in the power of partnership," said Benoit Cornet, CEO. The company will also be contributing to the relaunch and retheme of

Hersheypark's new gaming dark ride, Reese's Cupfusion. On tap for 2019 at Walabi Belgium will be the introduction of Alterface's IP: Popcorn Revenge. This Erratic dark ride system, with ride vehicles provided by ETF, offers a trackless journey with seven interactive scenes to deliver a ride time of four-and-a-half minutes.

West Coast Racers will debut at Six Flags Magic Mountain this summer. Jim Seay, CEO, Premier Rides, said, "I can't think of any ride cooler than one associated with West Coast Customs. It's tied into one of their most amazing cars they built for Will.i.am. You're going to be racing with the power and performance of what West Coast Customs can provide."

The dual-launch, dual-track will have riders interacting with opposing race car vehicles. "We wanted to make it a very intimate experience, much like the racing scene in Los Angeles," added Seay. "You've seen it in the movies — these people are racing each other and looking at each other a few feet apart. We had to create an environment where you had an intimate experience not with one train, but two trains of riders. We had to use our control technology to ensure the dispatch creates the race experience."

Seay also is excited about other projects, including a new coaster in Doha, Qatar. "We're building a Guinness World Record attraction. It will be the tallest indoor coaster in the world. It's a special effects coaster," he said. The final details haven't been fully revealed. Seay also teased that Premier Rides has also built and delivered the largest roller coaster vehicle in the industry. "You'll be sitting on a coaster attached to a high-tech robot

— and there are 32 of them traveling around at one time. It's a stunning attraction."

The Gravity Group revealed the lead car to Kentucky Kingdom's new family wooden coaster, Kentucky Flyer. Decked out with an airplane front, the stylized car was well received.

"We modeled it after a P40 fighter jet," said Corey Kiepert, engineer. "We had an airplane concept we presented to the park and we worked back and forth with different ideas and likes and dislikes."

Each of the ride's two trains will feature different colors, one blue and the other gray. Kiepert noted that the trains were designed with camera mounts built into the vehicles which enables parks and media to get great video footage. This is the third ride designed by the company for a 40-inch height requirement. "We did a lot of size testing in our facility to ensure kids of all sizes stay in safely. They are like little Houdinis. Adults ride comfortably, too. This is a ride meant to bring the family together."

Triotech announced the company's latest project in high-capacity interactive attractions. Dubbed Team Battle, the innovative experience features game play between two teams seated in a theater, as well as individual play. The attraction features 4-D effects. The project features "Rabbids," a brand from Ubisoft, a leading creator of interactive entertainment.

"Up to now, interactive motion simulators have been limited in the number of players due to screen clutter," said Ernest Yale, founder and CEO of Triotech. "We feel that with Team Battle, Triotech has broken that barrier and we can offer

much higher hourly ride capacity than previously possible."

Zamperla offered multiple new concepts under the Z+ brand, in addition to showcasing its new coaster vehicle headed to Mundo Petapa in Guatemala. BumpArcade is a new twist on a bumper car attraction. Using existing bumper cars with a floor pickup, riders become players aiming for targets projected on the driving floor to score points within a darkened bumper car attraction. In addition to exciting play, a safety advantage is that it helps reduce head-on collisions. Q Linez tackles the problem of boring queues. This new brand is born through the association of Z+ and Team Park Project, an Italian park designer, with the aim of building entertaining experiences while waiting in lines.

"Our Zamperla+ brand brings in outside technologies and applies them to amusement rides to bring them new life," said Michael Coleman, Zamperla. "Captain's Command is a new motion gesture [technology] that has an audio prompt for each side of a swinging galleon attraction. The prompt will spur guests to raise their hands in the air, and a sensor will keep score. We have a winner each ride, and it creates that human interaction. It makes people more involved with each other on the ride."

Coleman noted for parks that have safety requirements that hands remain down, the technology can gauge screams instead. He states the first installation this year will work with water cannons that shoot off depending on the score. "It gives a theatrical presence to the ride," he said. "Super simple, but also advanced, and

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it causes people to investigate an older ride.”

Following multiple installations in the U.S. in 2018, **Rocky Mountain Construction** projects for 2019 will debut overseas. “We have jobs in Japan, Holland and Poland that are ongoing,” said **Fred Grubb**, president.

“There’s not a lot known about the project at **Walibi Holland**,” said **Alan Schilke**, engineer and coaster designer of **Ride Centerline**. “They are going for and have achieved a record of some sort; so, let your mind go there. Poland has one of the more unique layouts. I think how we place the signature elements and inversions is different. Poland will be the tallest hybrid coaster.”

Grubb and Schilke spoke to the unique designs for the coaster trains. From whales to shattered glass to futuristic machines, the looks of the trains are expected to be striking.

S&S–Sansei Technologies made a big reveal. The lead car of **The Steel Curtain** nine-inversion coaster going into **Kennywood** made a big impression, particularly with sports fans.

“It was a bit of a dream come true,” said **Pete Barto**, director of sales. “Being someone who actually lives in Pennsylvania and growing up going to places like **Kennywood**, this is the biggest ride in our company’s history. It’s more than 4,000 feet in track length.”

“There are quite a few neat features on this ride,” added **Preston Perkes**, executive director of administration. “The wheel carrier is the big-



Riders experience **Li-Fly from HoloVis** in a prone “flying” position (above). This impressive roller coaster model (right) sparked major interest at the **Great Coasters International** booth. COURTESY HOLOVIS; AT/TIM BALDWIN

gest change we’ve made. We have bolt-together wheel carriers. It gives us more strength.”

S&S is also supplying a launched coaster at **Six Flags Great America**. **Maxx Force** features the world’s highest double inversion and the fastest inversion: a barrel roll taken at 60 mph. The acceleration is also the world’s quickest at 0–60 in 1.6 seconds. “It’s going to pin your eyeballs,” smiled **Barto**.

Zierer is staying busy for the coming year. Various family towers are in production, three for the U.S. An installation at **Adventureland Long Island** is allowing **Zeirer** to retheme the park’s **Jet Skis** and **Lady Bug** coaster. **Four Wave Swingers** are in production. “The Wave Swinger is still an eye-catcher for every park,” said **Marina Ernst-Weiderer**, marketing, **Zierer**. One for Europe is said to have new beautiful oak tree theming. **Two Star Shape** rides are also lined up for the new season.

Several new family coasters will be debuting around the globe. **Ernst-Weiderer** com-

mented that **Hungary** and **Ireland** are new destinations for **Zierer**, but coasters will also be supplied to **Belgium**, **Denmark** and the U.S.

Great Coasters Int’l., Inc. had an attention-grabbing model at its booth. Sporting dueling lifts, coaster trains originally oppose each other before meeting up mid-ride for a side-by-side race to the finish, complete with intertwining inversions. During the show, **Clair Hain**, president of **GCII**, said three parties were highly interested in the concept. He reported customer interest in the company’s wooden coasters is very global with multiple contracts signed.

Hain has been exceptionally pleased with the company’s use of **ipe wood**. “We really studied it; I took it into **TUV** for testing and the results were unbelievable. **White Lightning** at **Fun Spot** runs 365 days a year, almost ‘two seasons’ in one year (for a normal park). After some repairs two years in, we put this wood in the high stress areas five years



ago, and it has not needed any repairs since. All of our new rides now use this.”

GCII has developed a **Class 5** train which means it can do inversions and 90-degree drops. A vehicle was on display which attracted onlookers.

Hain commented on the vitality of the industry. “I had the best **EAS** show ever, followed by the best trip to **China** ever. Here it has been very busy; I was shocked on the first day when the loud speaker came on and said the floor was closed. I thought, ‘Where did the day go?’” he said.

Legoland Florida has teamed up with **Brogent Technologies**. The flying theater concept receives a twist with the new **Lego Movie Master of Flight** attraction.

“Riders will not know what to expect. When they board what appears to be a triple-decker couch, it will then rotate 180 degrees into a 60-foot wide dome theater,” said **Tim Chen**, sales director, **Brogent**.

The experience lets visitors have the feeling of flying through a world of **Lego bricks** that is populated by characters from **The Lego Movie**.

Ride Entertainment is heavily involved with the **American Dream Meadowlands** project. Representing **Gerstlauer** in the U.S., **Adam Sandy**, president, business development, **Ride Entertainment**, said, “Both the coasters from **Gerstlauer** are record breakers, of course — the **Eurofighter** for world’s steepest drop, plus the tallest free-spinning roller coaster.” Other installations from **Gerstlauer** have not been announced from the parks yet so **Sandy** was not at liberty to disclose any details.

“The **American Dream Ropes Course, Inc.**, project will be the world’s tallest at 92 feet, as well as having two freefall

experiences, stepping off the structure. This is stories above anything else out there,” said **Sandy**. “The other cool thing is the **Seeker** system, which is designed for shorter guests, so it’s like two courses in one. It’s widening that demographic of ridership.”

Ride Entertainment represent **Metalbau**, which is installing a custom **Pony Trek** ride at **Dollywood**, as well as a tractor ride in **Illinois** at **Bengtson’s Pumpkin Farm**.

Skycoaster debuted its new **Sled harness** at **Fun Spot America** allowing show attendees to check out the new experience. **Hopi Hari** in **Brazil** re-opened its **Skycoaster** at the end of last year.

Mark Beumes of **Lagotronics** (also represented by **Ride Entertainment**) said, “We are excited to have a **Game Changer** installation opening up here in **North America**. I can’t discuss the theme, but it will be a very well-known IP. The location is triple-A-plus. It will be a ride of six sections — five game scenes and one station area. There will be six seats per section. It should give an hourly capacity of approximately 675.”

Beumes said complete new dark rides are also being negotiated for **North America** and internationally, one specifically in **Japan** that uses **Lagotronics Farm Fair** brand.

HoloVis introduced **Li-Fly** at the show. “It’s a take on the flying theater. Typically you go in and sit, and we thought, ‘That’s not flying,’” said **Emily Burrows**, communications manager. “With **Li-fly** you’re in the prone position facing down.”

Burrows said **Li-Fly** is a scalable system with eight to ten riders per row. Like a flying coaster, the mechanism tilts riders up into the prone posi-



The reveal of the coaster train headed for **SeaWorld San Diego’s** new **Tidal Twister** (left) came complete with **Skyline Attractions** family members. Singing penguins at the **Martin & Vleminckx** booth (right) stopped many with their Christmas carols. AT/TIM BALDWIN

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO

Expo spotlights support services ranging from to food to safety

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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ORLANDO, Fla. – Here's a look at some of the many exhibitors at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018.

Dippin' Dots has been an exhibitor for 30 years and wanted to do something big this time as **Adam Gross**, senior director of sales core business explained, "We wanted to make a splash. We've done so by setting up international on one side of the aisle and then our core business on the left side. We're showing off two new flavors. One of the unique things that we are doing this year is we're using an eco-friendly spoon to cut down on waste at the show but also to collect some feedback on how the industry would respond to a paper spoon that you basically have to fold. [Eco-Tensil is the manufacturer.] Fisher Enterprises, the parent company, has acquired **Dot Popcorn**, a gourmet popcorn company. "We are constantly looking for other fun foods, novelty-type concepts that are out there, where we can pair Dippin' Dots with either popcorn or some other products," he said.

Virginia Toy & Novelty Company's president, founder and inventor, **Jim Weigl**, has enjoyed a positive experience with the Attractions Expo. "The trade show has been exceptional. We've seen a lot of repeat customers and a lot of new customers from all around the world. Been real happy with," he said. "We've been around since 1999. We are designers, developers and importers of toy novelty and gift merchandise for the family entertainment and retail industries." Weigl is excited about the New Toy Lab program the company offers. "We take the idea that customers have, whether it's a new attraction or certain character they want to promote, or an idea and we help them bring that to life in merchandise that's a high quality souvenir, that they can then sell or give away or use as promotional pieces for their customers."

SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment is one of their customers. "[They] had asked us to help them relaunch their assortment and look at some new characters they were planning to put more emphasis on to make some shark attractions and shark toys. We sat down and worked through some different engineering and development ideas that



Mini-Melts USA had a huge contingency. They gave away 40,000 servings of their product during the first three days alone. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

were focused specifically on that animal," said Weigl.

DNP Imagingcomm America Corp was represented by **Suzanne Seagle**, director of marketing. "We have a couple of new products that we are showcasing. We found that everyone who is stopping by our booth really loves it." Family of Luxury media is one of the new offerings with photographic images being able to be printed on metallic or silver pearl. "This is specific paper that you would use in the printer to allow you to print 5x7, 6x8 or 8x12. It shows a phenomenal difference in the print." Black and white or sepia photos can be printed on this stock as well. "You can offer this as an up-sell solution, a higher margin, a better revenue stream for the photographer." DNP has also expanded their offering of printers with additional models and additional features. "We are excited to show our new products and find what kind of interest there is, [as it] helps us from a marketing perspective to understand if our pricing is right when our product hits the market."

Feld Entertainment was represented by a fourth generation owner, **Juliette Feld Grossman**, COO of the company. "We developed a booth where we are offering two opportunities for folks who are at the [Attractions Expo] show to experience. We have a grave digger VR experience in one of our massive ride trucks. We also have the opportunity for folks to see one of our iconic **Ringling Brother/Barnum Bailey Circus Wagon** of clothes [where they can] try on some of our actual costumes and take some photos," she said.

While the trade show was taking place, "Trolls the Experience" opened in New York City, a joint venture with **NBC/Universal** and **DreamWorks**. This is Feld's first venture into a location-based, entertain-

ment attraction. "We've created a 12,000-square-foot immersive experience where fans come in and experience everything from becoming a troll themselves, making the music in a magical forest environment — a lot of different kinds of ways that kids can interact and touch and feel and participate. This includes a 3-D dance party, scrap booking experience, and a meet and greet with Poppy, the featured Troll herself," Grossman said. The company has 25 tours on the books right now with **Monster Jam**, **Super Cross**, **Marvel Universe Live**, **Sesame Street Live**, **Disney on Ice** and **Disney Live**.

Charma Wilderson, general manager amusements, was at the **Safe-Strap Company LLC** booth and described early days of the expo as "amazing." "There's a lot of quality people coming through," she said. The company debuted a remote sensor product. "We got such a lot of feedback from our remote locking restraint. Customers were saying we don't need it to be locking, but we want something telling us that it is engaged." **Chris Johnson**, engineer with Safe-Strap, came up with a remote sensor informing the operator it is engaged, while the patron can let themselves out. Wilderson said, "It's like having a second pair of eyes on your ride!"

Gull Wing Industries Inc. is a company that provides portable electrical solutions to carnivals, festivals, and fairs. **Allan Wadsley**, principal, discussed the latest trends with the type of equipment he sells. "One of the big things that's happening in the industry is the movement from tier 3 to tier 4 on the emissions on the diesel engines. Nobody really wants to do that, so we're seeing more movement to a slightly used generator as opposed to a new one," he said. Asked about show floor traffic, Wadsley said, "The first day was phenomenal, the second day was



Bob's Space Racers' staff took a break from the show floor for a photo op (from left): Jack Cook, Dave Sandstorm, Teri Howell and Larry Steele. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

a little slow and today is kind of about in between."

Low volume custom production molding is what the **Ralph S. Alberts Company, Inc.** provides to the industry. **Ed Alberts**, president was pleased with the show turnout. "I'm excited about the attendance that has been here. We've had some good new contacts." The company has a new EVA-approved foam it has been using that is a very green product. Alberts recently opened a Fiberglass shop and have gone to two shifts in its main plant, cutting down on lead time and delivery schedule. "We've been operational about three months with that, and we're seeing a much higher level of output. That will help us tremendously when it comes time for our busy time when we get a bit overloaded in the winter time when all the parks up north are shut down," Alberts said.

Third generation family member **Seth Alberts** is moving into the top spot in the near future. He talked about company growth opportunities, "Whether that's acquisitions, setting up facilities in the southeast, or over in Europe, but definitely growth and throughput for 2019," he said.

Mini-Melts USA, Inc. had a very large contingency on the trade show floor providing sampling of many of their flavors. **Dan Kilcoyne**, president, said, "The trade show has been unbelievable. I think it's the best year we've had. Normally we give out somewhere between 30-35,000 servings, we've already exceeded 40,000 and still have one more day left. It's a really, really good show this year." He went on to explain their latest ventures. "We just started our new automated kiosk program. A lot of locations need the automated kiosk for a couple of reasons: It reduces queue lines and it also saves on labor. We're putting kiosks in

different parts of parks, FEC's, really anywhere where there's a [electrical] plug, we provide the profit for that plug. We're able to go into locations that normally wouldn't have traditional food service. They're able to get it in a quick and efficient manner. The machine takes cash, credit card, google, apple pay — it takes everything."

Dave Sandstorm, VP international sales, **Bob's Space Racers**, gave his perspective on the show; "Traffic has been very heavy in our booth. We've had some sales and a lot of returning customers and a lot of new customers. That's always a good sign." The Hang Man/Hang Tough is one of their new game offerings, while their attendant-free FEC war/water games introduced in 2017 continued to be very popular this year as well.

Owner/president of **Audio Innovators Inc.** **Dale Hershberger** felt the show has been very good for his communication and sound system company based in Riverview, Fla. Asked about new items they now carry, he said, "A new bumper car [sound] system, [and] self-contained audio equipment." He ended his remarks with "I'm tired."

They have been referred to as one of the most Instagramable booths at the Attractions Expo. The praise is worthy as **RoboLabs** made candy-floss aka cotton candy, not in the traditional way, but in a vertical flow machine, providing an entertainment-type approach, engaging everyone who passed by. **Stephen Canale**, USA representative for the Moscow, Russia-based company, explained, "The showstopper, what everyone comes for, is the Robo JetFloss which allows you to create cotton candy in mid-air from distances as far as 10, 15, 20 feet. It is the most innovative and captivating

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IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO

▶RIDES

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tion and the screen is on a horizontal plane below them.

"There are three degrees of freedom," said Burrows. "Surge is where you move into the dome and can move forward and backward. You have heave which goes up and down. One meter of heave can give you those butterflies in your stomach. And pitch — each of the seats can do a full 360 degrees of rotation. We could also do a single row for a smaller facility like a family entertainment center."

An option of VR instead of a screen could allow each rider to choose their own themed experience.

Logan Checketts of **Soaring Eagle** was pleased with the Expo. He found the zipline to be the most popular product from the company's portfolio. "It's got a proven performance record and it's a profitable product," he said. Checketts said the company is close to 70 installations of the ride. Unable to disclose the locations, he said Soaring Eagle expects eight to 10 more to be built in 2019.

"We also have two 120-foot [drop] towers going in," said Checketts. "Those are in production." The towers feature a drop tower on one side and the Saddle Sling attraction on the other. "The Saddle Sling

is so smooth," said Checketts.

Paradrop VR from **Frontgrid** exhibited at the **Simworx** booth. The concept uses virtual reality controlled by the rider in a paragliding seating configuration. Riders initiate sway and flight gathering points in the journey as they fly to certain targets. Sensations of weightlessness are experienced as the mechanism rises and drops. Air jets also enhance the feeling of rapid speed. An installation opened in 2018 at **Brighton Palace Pier**. One also opened at **Merlin Entertainment's** £20 million **Bear Grylls Adventure** in Birmingham, U.K.

The ride is ideally suited for FECs, science centers and museums, and other stand-alone attractions. Each facility can decide how many units to install making for the right fit for each location's capacity needs.

Skyline Attractions unveiled the lead car to **Tidal Twister** going into **SeaWorld San Diego**. This is the first version of the Sky Warp attraction in the Horizon configuration, making it lower to the ground. Introduced at the previous IAAPA Expo in 2017, the ride garnered a lot of attention as being able to fit indoors. Ironically, its debut will be outdoors.

"We've been able to make several improvements," said **Chris Gray**, Skyline Attractions. "We know what we need to do to make it abso-



lutely perfect. We've put a lot of adjustability in our track connections and column connections. On Horizon it turns both right and left, while on the original it only turned left. On this variation we have real bogies to turn and pivot like most roller coasters, so that's going to be a big improvement. The train will hug the track a little tighter."

As riders load while trains are on banked turns, this new version has a tilting mechanism for loading and unloading. The engineering is designed for the right speed in navigating 45-degree banked turns and also giving a negative-G pop. In the figure-eight design, a portion of the track includes a barrel roll.

Martin & Vleminckx took things in a totally different direction at the show. Known

for its towering wooden coasters, the company found incredible success in capturing the attention of attendees with singing penguins.

"It's a new product for us. We are the distributor for North America," said **Eve Melanson**, director of marketing. "There is a lot of popularity."

"We've had two solid customer leads, one foreign and one domestic," said **Chuck Bingham**, senior vice president of marketing & sales, in regard to the company's coaster installations. "Everything is in place, so we're optimistic. The domestic project is big enough that it would probably be for 2021."

In hitting multiple markets, M&V announced in 2017 that it would be representing **Fabbri** and **Preston & Barbieri**. Also, the company is partnering with **Rocky Mountain Construction**

to represent them and build rides in Asian markets.

Mack Rides was eager to talk about certain projects debuting in 2019.

"Copperhead Strike will be going into **Carowinds**, and it will be the first time we have ever done two [vertical] loops on a ride," said **Maximilian Roeser**, marketing. "I think the airtime launch hill will really be fun. It also has a barrel roll right out of the station. It's a very big ride. A smaller installation will be at **Freizeitpark Plohn** in Germany. For the first time we are using real wood on the vehicles."

The seating on the ride vehicle will be two rows of four with elevated seats. The outer seats will hang over the sides of the track.

"We will be working with **Efteling** on **Max and Mortiz**, which will open in 2020," said Roeser. "It will be our very first dueling powered coaster. The great thing is we have one station and one train leaves from the left side and the other from the right. They meet up during the ride."

Roeser couldn't talk about other future projects, but teased, "We have huge projects coming along. In the next five years you will see big roller coasters — real big. Long ones." He reported that major projects are slated for Europe, the U.S. and China.

▶EXHIBITORS

Continued from page 5B

new offering in vending since cotton candy was first introduced at the World's Fair back in 1904. People who don't like cotton candy and refuse the free samples still stand here for ten or 15 minutes and watch it being made. You end up with a product for all intents and purposes that looks like magic." The taste is different because the product is not being made in a bowl against a net, where the heat partially melts it, resulting in a

dense, sticky treat. "We're getting a very airy, fluffy product, because it's literally made in air. You're collecting the product two, three, four, five, ten feet above the bowl, so you're getting a lighter, fluffier flavor more like a mousse compared to a fudge. But it's the entertainment factor that really sells it," said Canale.

Paul Noland, CEO of **aceso**, is pleased with the show. "We've been so busy, we keep running out of chairs for people to sit down in. I think we have a lot of new products and new innovations that people are excited about. We've connected well

with both new, potential customers and a lot of our existing clients." The technology company helps parks, attractions and venues globally with ticketing, point of sale, virtual queuing and guest experience and distribution. Noland said, "There's a lot of focus when you think about marketing to a guest, before they come, there's a lot of focus on service when they are in a venue and then there's marketing focus after they leave. We do tie all those things together."

MacLean Corp was staffed by **Meagan Wallace**. She told **AT**, "We are expanding the plant itself. This week we just installed another casting machine. It's going to allow us to produce on a volume level at a quicker time, so for the end user it's going to help speed up some of our production time. We are about to come into that heavy winter rehab season where all the parks are sending their wheels in for their rides at the same time, so of course everybody needs to get them back so they can get them reinstalled and inspected and running for spring break."

Scott Heit, sales and support for **Coast to Coast Entertainment**, was pleased with the show. "I like the overall pacing. I feel like the added tents outside probably spaced out the attendance a little bit better. There was a constant, steady flow of people. On the **Elaut** side, there's the six-player **Flintstones**. They have switched it over to tokens and added a skill-stop super bonus to the game. On the **Coast to Coast** side, the **Robot Storm** ball shooter game has gone over incredibly well. Its sister game, **Hero of Steel** water shooter, also got pretty good reviews." Heit took notice and praised other manufacturers and their games: "There's a lot of cool stuff around."

On board for **Uremet Corp.** was **Jessy Coffeen**, president and CEO. "We've had a lot of people interested in learning more about polyurethane wheels. We have a product coming out later. It is kind of like in its prototype testing phase. Hopefully at the next show we will have something to debut. Right now we're just sticking to what we do best and that's the polyurethane coating

on the wheels."

"We've had a great amount of people coming in. A lot of inquiries on our locker system and our massage chair system. It's been a fantastic show," said **Jonathan Graham**, director of business development for **Smarte Carte**. The company has a variety of brands for the amusement industry. Recently they overhauled their massage chair system providing "a place for parents to sit down, get a little rest and relaxation — a little massage while the kids are out playing," said Graham. "Focusing on our lockers, we have our straight forward pin locker system which is geared towards smaller amusement parks, FEC centers, trampoline parks, ranging all the way to our network locker system." That product appeals to larger theme and water parks. "[That] system includes the ability to integrate with other POS systems, wrist band providers, via bar-code wristband, via RFID wristband — a lot of data at your fingertips to really understand locker needs demographic within your clientele base."

Virginia Toy & Novelty promoted their **New Toy Lab** offering. **Johanna Mikucki**, sales representative, is shown with **Jim Weigl**, president, founder and inventor.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW



IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO

Portable rides enjoy ample floor space, sales at IAAPA Expo

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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ORLANDO — With 1,200 exhibiting companies, the 650,000-square-foot trade show floor at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018 was bustling with sales activity — including numerous transactions within the portable ride industry.

Nestled in one corner of the south exhibit hall was an area that could be a small carnival, with four rides inside and another three outdoors. All comprised the **Rides-4-U** booth. **Len Soled**, company president, felt there was great representation at the show from three major segments of the amusement industry.

“Quite a few amusement parks attended,” Soled said. “We had the carnival owners and the FEC market. All three were phenomenal. To get the people through, the 39,000 that attended the show, you had to put on one hell of an exhibit.”

Soled explained what he showcased: “We brought in some new prototype rides. The coaster is a prototype [SBF-Visa Spinning Coaster XXL], and we sold several of those. We’ve had the Drop and Twist out for a number of years, reintroducing it with a little more lighting on it.” The ride, he added, also features an improved pneumatic system that makes it better suited to indoor operation.

Rides-4-U continued to move its Mini Breakdance called Crazy Cabs. “We’ve sold a dozen of them at the show to not only carnivals but parks as well,” Soled said. “We even made a new model of it that will be lower to the ground and more visible for patrons to see.”

Also on the floor was Look Out, a ride with four arms and four-across, back-to-back seating that gives the sensation of a much larger ride in less than half the space. “We have one going to the new **Kalahari** project [Round Rock, Texas],” Soled said. “They have a number of our pieces. It has run non-stop throughout the entire show. Lines out the door, for both the XXL and the Look Out ride. That should be a home run.”

Jenkinson’s Boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., is getting the Spinning Coaster XXL model that was at the show. Also, **Bill Prescott** of **Pavilion Park** in Myrtle Beach, S.C., bought one, and **Waldameer Park** ordered a unit for 2020.



The Rides-4-U booth featured a Spinning Coaster XXL, a Drop-N-Twist tower and a portable Mini Break Dance, all from SBF-Visa. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

The Drop and Twist is going to **The Funplex**, an FEC in Mount Laurel, N.J. These are just some of Ride 4U’s sales highlights.

Patty Sullivan, president and CEO of **Eli Bridge Company**, said, “We’ve seen a lot of customers, and they’re talking about new things in the next year, two years, three years. We’re happy to have business to look forward to. It’s kind of like old home week getting to see people that we’ve known for years, whether they buy anything or not. You make so many good friends in this industry, and that’s a nice thing.”

Touch screen technology has been added to Eli wheels. “It’s a wonderful device to cut the time it takes to train people. It helps with balancing. It’s a very nice function,” Sullivan noted. Asked about new projects, she said, “We’ve got a couple of things on the back burner, but I need to hire an engineer. We’re ready to move forward with several projects if we have an engineer.”

Fabbri Group was well represented with a large booth and numerous staff members. Said **Edward Cromheecke**, vice president: “Our company at the moment is doing several projects in Asia. We are working in Vietnam for a new project with the **Bower Group Asia** in Hanoi, and we are making two family rides for them. We are building a very big wheel [53 meters] for the German market. That’s a portable wheel, which means it’s not built on trailers — it has a portable platform.”

In Australia, the company is making a 50-meter-tall booster ride that seats 16 passengers. Ten were sold in 2018; 120 have been sold to date. **Cromheecke** also described a new project in Moscow, Russia. “This is an indoor project,” he said. “We are selling a small mouse coaster.”

Martin & Vleminckx represents **Fabbri** in North America, where sales have been soft during the last decade. “We think now the time has come that we can get some extra sales in America,” **Cromheecke** said. “That is why we have decided to go together with them, because we have complementary products,” said **Cromheecke**. **Ray Cammack Shows** has purchased a booster.

At the **E.F. Miler Industries, LLC** booth, **Fred Miler** shared his thoughts about the show on the first day: “Some of the people we wanted to see we

have talked with already, and that’s good,” **Miler** said. He was mum on details of new projects in the works. “We’ve got some that I can’t talk about right now, but they’re kind of stirring the pot.” Since 1991, E.F. Miler has done more than 50 roller coaster installations, mostly in the U.S. and Canada, with a couple erected in India.

Majestic Rides co-owner **Jeff Kudler** talked about their newest addition to their ride portfolio. “We came out with a spinning roller coaster last year, and we’re on our second one right now,” he said. **Steve Swika, Swikas Amusements** bought the first one. As for the second one, **Kudler** said, “I can’t disclose his name right now for competition.”

Looking forward, **Kudler** said, “We’ve got two new bumper cars coming out, two new styles. We’ve got a couple ideas on our existing equip-

ment.” This includes a back wall on **Charlie Chopper** and the **Wiggle Worm**.

A.R.M. Rides USA, Inc., saw a busy trade show floor, inside and out. President **Mike Gill** said, “The first day was really good. We saw a lot of traffic very early. In the outdoor lot we have **Frenzy**, which is a new 12-passenger pendulum-style swing ride, which we’ve built in the past, we refined and made it a bigger, better model.”

Gill went on to talk about **Skyhawk**, a new invention of the popular **Vertigo** ride. “We’re going to put a new seating arrangement on it, so that you lay down in a prone fashion, Superman style, if you will. It will have the same ride action as a typical **Vertigo**. You will load ground level and extend to a height of about 100 feet.” **Danny Huston** with **NAME** has purchased the first one, which is in the process of being built, with delivery mid-2019.

Mirko Schulze, CEO, **Huss Park Attractions**, talked about one of their latest projects: “It is interesting to mention for the US market, there is a project we are doing with **SeaWorld** for the new **Turtle Reef** area they are installing in San Antonio. **SeaWorld** approached us last year. They said they would actually buy the same ride [Huss Airboat Riptide Rescue] that we delivered a few years ago to San Diego. They said, ‘Don’t change anything, it’s fine.’” The only change with the San Antonio installation is different colors.

“We used to say the first ride is sold by the sales department, the second one by the service department. Our service people did a good job. The ride is running fine. The feedback from the client of the audience is good. That was the main reason they approached us. It is due for delivery, I believe, in February,” said **Shulze**. A grand opening is planned in June. The ride features 12 gondolas themed as rescue boats, which carry two passengers each. The gondolas swing around a central arm and feature an open-top design to increase the thrill level.

Carlo Guglielmi, chief manager of **Ital International, LLC**, felt the show was a bit slow, however 2018 was busy. “We had overall a good year for new and used rides, and we



Luna-Park Rides sold two Ferris wheels during the show. The company was represented by **Izabela Smith**, project manager, and **Giles Smith**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

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IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO



The Fabbri Group was well represented (from left): Sergio Chierigatti, owner; Luciano Balzano, engineer; Gianluca Fabbri, owner and president; Edward Cromheecke, vice president; and Gian Charles Manca, sales. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

►PORTABLE

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do have orders already from all our suppliers, ready to be delivered starting in February.” He then went on to talk about a new ride for the U.S. market. “We will deliver in two months a new **Technical Park Aerobat**, an interactive ride where people flip over by working on the car wings; delivered to **S&T Amusement / Playland and Castaway Cove**, Ocean City, N.J. New rides from **Bertazzon** (another company he represents) include a park model double decker carousel, **Canobie Lake Park**, Salem, N.H.; trailer model Matterhorn 16 and New York taxi bumper cars, both to **Drew Exposition**, Augusta, Ga.; a trailer-mounted Matterhorn Ice Jet to **Jim Bishop Rides**, San Antonio, Texas, and a trailer-mounted Swing Carousel with 64 seats to **Gillette Shows**, Pittsfield, Mass.

New rides from Technical Park include two-trailer mounted Street Fighter Revolution rides, one to **Modern Midways/Robert Briggs**, Steger, Ill., and another to Fanelli’s Traveling Park, Ridge, N.H.; a park model “Super Miami Crazy Surf”, **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk**, Calif., and a 20-meter wheel to **PBJ Happee Days Shows**, Marion, Ark. Finally ITAL International has a new ride they sold from **Cosmont-Visa**, a Super Slide with eight lanes, going to **Reithoffer Shows, Inc.**

At **Preston & Barbieri**, **Francesco Ferrari**, president, was excited to talk about the company’s newest offering, “We are really pleased to introduce to the American market the latest coaster we make, **Sea Viper**. [It] is a family coaster,

21 meters high, with a footprint of 61 meters by 26. We installed it at **Palace Playland** in Maine. This is good for the owner of the park and good for us because attendance is our first result.”

Joel Golder, CEO of the park, happened to be in the booth when *Amusement Today* visited. “It helped us with attendance. We had an 11-12 percent increase in ride gross. We’re anxious to get a season under our belt. **Preston & Barbieri** was extremely good to work with. **Francesco Ferrari** was excellent. The installation people were terrific and they worked very well with our maintenance crew and they did very good after the sale. We also received an SBF-Visa spinning coaster. That was very well received also.”

Ferrari hopes to expand the company’s presence in the American market.

Albert Frieden, managing member of **Battach Enterprises**, was happy with the show floor action. “We’ve had a lot of communication with customers, a lot of people have stopped by to talk, a couple deals that were in place got concluded here, a couple other ones are proceeding forward at this point,” he said.

When asked about new products, **Friden** said, “We did the new version of the Spider last year and we’re pushing forward with that. Of course we’re doing rebuilds on earlier products.”

Wisdom Rides, Inc. owner **Victor Wisdom** talked about his company’s 2018 successes, “This past year we delivered a one truck Matterhorn (Flying Bobs). It’s easier to set up than our one-truck Himalaya. Also the Y-Factor turned out very nice this year. It’s been doing great on the **James Gang Show**.

They are absolutely fantastic people to work with.”

Wisdom is working on a portable roller coaster. “The coaster is two trailers and will be able to set up in the same footprint as the Sizzler. [It’s] about 32 foot high. It will have two different themes available on it, a pirate ship theme and a casket factory theme. It should be really easy to set up and a big piece to move easily,” said **Jared Davis**, president. When asked who might be taking delivery, **Davis** said, “Some customers just don’t want people to know until it is sitting on their midway.”

Wisdom is also working with amusement parks regarding a Starship-type ride with a high-definition theme in it. “They [customer] will be able to go in and have a simulation effect with time travel with the Starships. We’re working with some parks and some permanent installations to get that in there next year,” said **Davis**.

Andrea Casagrande, sales manager for **Gosetto**, discussed what was new at her com-

What gets lost does get found

ORLANDO — With 42,000 reported trade show attendees this year, items can get lost. Fortunately things get found and returned thanks to the staff at the **IAAPA Security Office**. **Jadeline Smith**, who has been on the Lost and Found desk for three years, described what takes place, “We’ve had over two dozen cell phones turned in and about 20 of them have been recovered. We’ve also had a lot of cash that’s been turned in, believe it or not.” Other items include 16 credit cards, many pairs of glasses, sweaters, sweatshirts, IAAPA bags and more. **Smith** enjoys successful reunions of people with their “found” items. “It’s been really pleasant to see their expression. A lot of them didn’t even know we have a Lost and Found. I’m happy to do it.”

This reporter had first-hand experience with the operation, losing his voice recorder. After filing a report and walking back on the trade show floor, the phone rang with **Smith** saying it had been turned in. This all happened in under 30 minutes. When asked about the most unusual item lost, **Smith** reverts back to the greenbacks and other forms of currency that have landed in her office in the south lobby of the complex. “This is one of the shows I can honestly say that we have the most honest crowd. People have been unbelievable. We had a couple thousand dollars that was turned in that belonged to someone that dropped it. That was actually the most fascinating one to me, considering the amount of money that was turned in. It’s just amazing.”

Smith’s advice to future show attendees: “Stay focused.”
—B. Derek Shaw

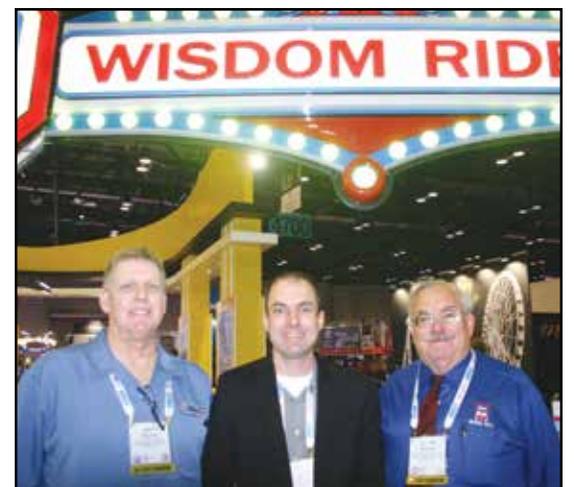
pany: “We presented the new LED Bumper Car Race, which is an indoor floor [ride] and two different speeds. You can also overtake, not just bump, like the old classic bumper car floors. We delivered the first one in the USA to the **Myers** family last year.”

Casagrande continued, “We just delivered the dark ride at Adventureland in New York. We have a new indoor compact coaster called **Cosmic Speed**. Size is 22 meters by 12. Our first **Gosetto** dark ride on a trailer was delivered to a showman in the USA, **Myers** family. We are producing a huge suspended dark ride going to Dubai and another huge one going to Bangkok.”

Izabela Smith, proj-

ect manager with **Luna-Park Rides**, took a few minutes to share her thoughts on the show. “It has been quite interesting. We got some new leads so it’s been good I would say. We were able to close a deal, so that’s good.”

The company has developed improvements to their Ferris wheel, allowing for quicker setup and teardown. “It’s got four motors to provide better traction for the drive rim, which used to be two, so that is better,” said **Smith**. The Flying Elephant now has a folding platform as an enhancement. More parts are now available in the U.S. Ferris wheels were sold to **Cole Shows** in Covington, Va., and **Casey’s Rides, Inc.**, in Utica, Ky.



Huss Park Attractions is replicating its Airboat ride for **SeaWorld Antonio**. The park named it **Riptide Rescue**. **Huss** personnel shown (above left) are **Christine Althausen**, commercial director; **Hongyu Xie**, director of sales, China; and **Mirko Schulze**, CEO. **Wisdom Rides, Inc.**, is developing a portable coaster that fits onto two trailers. Shown (above right): **Jeff Miller**, director of sales; **Jared Davis**, president; and **Victor Wisdom**, owner. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO**Water park industry well represented at Attractions Expo**

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
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ORLANDO — The water attractions industry has made a big splash over the last several years, with increasing attendance bolstered by rising disposable incomes, falling unemployment rates and a generally improving economy.

The result has been a multitude of new attractions, whether in the form of elaborate multi-million dollar resorts, expansion of existing water facilities, or development of quaint city splash parks — water play attractions are seemingly everywhere.

Developers have taken the show's theme of Fun Forward: Build the Future quite literally with several massive indoor and outdoor projects making their debut this year or next year.

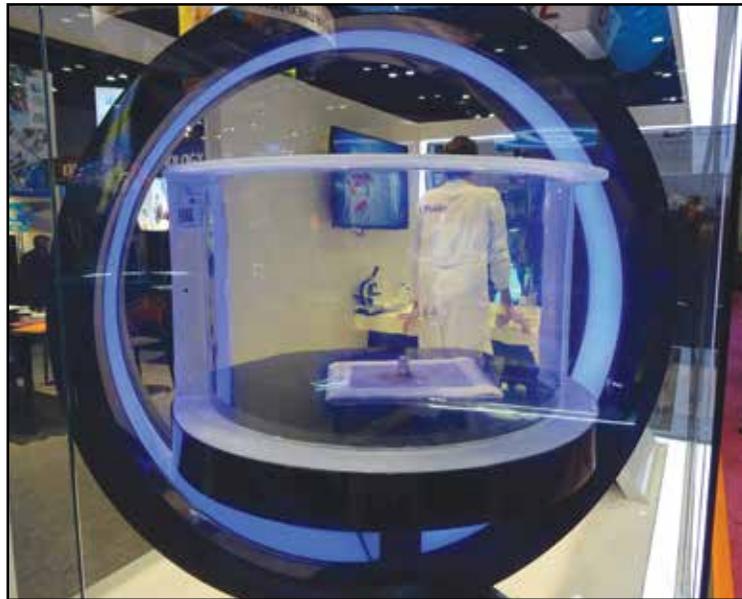
After languishing for years, the **American Dream** amusement and shopping complex in the **Meadowlands**, N.J., is scheduled to open in 2019. The indoor **Dreamworks Water Park** will include the world's largest indoor wave pool — commanding 1.5 acres and 1.5 million gallons of water — and the world's second-tallest body slide, starting at 142 feet in the air and including a 50-foot free fall.

The creators of the renowned **Camelback Resorts** in the Pocono tourist region of Pennsylvania are bringing their water park expertise to the Catskill Mountains of New York. Set to open in early 2019, **The Kartrite Hotel & Indoor Waterpark** will feature a two-acre, water park under a massive, column-free barrel-shaped transparent Teflon roof that will bathe visitors in natural sunlight and provide the ideal conditions for lush gardens.

Kalahari Resorts is bringing its distinctive African-themed resort to the Lone Star State. Kalahari Round Rock, Texas, will be the largest Kalahari to date when it opens in 2020.

These are just a few of the many projects guests can look forward to in 2019 and beyond. *AT* takes a look at some of the innovations that were presented at the 2018 IAAPA Attractions Expo.

One of the most exciting technological advances in waterslide design comes from **Polin Waterparks** with the development of fully transparent fiberglass. The industry has utilized transparent acrylic sections in waterslides in the



Polin Waterparks was showing off the development of its new Glassy — a fully transparent fiberglass waterslide complete with a scientist/technician in his own glass booth.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

past, but acrylic is expensive and the sections require large steel bands to join the pieces together or to fasten to other pieces of fiberglass. This new fully transparent fiberglass can be assembled just like any other fiberglass section, and allow for seamless transitions from solid or translucent to crystal clear. It's even possible to make an entire slide of transparent fiberglass that could give thrill seekers the visual illusion of riding through the air.

Sohret Pakis of Polin indicated that there has been interest from several U.S.-based companies, but as of the time of the show, nothing had been finalized.

Polin is working on several large-scale projects in Europe and Asia including **Splash World Malaysia**, a water park that will occupy the 13th and 14th floors of the **Harbour City Resort**. The massive resort designed to look like a cruise ship, will include three hotel towers, a ride park and the **Splash World Theme Park**. Polin Waterparks will supply several iconic attractions designed specifically to take advantage of the multi-level water park.

WhiteWater West was very excited about its new Vantage program which integrates technology from a variety of systems to revolutionize guest experience in a water park. The Vantage system can help guests customize their experience in a water park by communicating through an app downloaded to their phones. Once at a park, guests sync their app to a supplied RFID wristband. A quick scan at the start of the ride then enables

term, can help determine future attractions.

Another exciting WhiteWater announcement was the collaboration with several new companies including **Cirque du Soleil**. Known for its theatrical spectacles throughout the world, WhiteWater and **Cirque du Soleil** are working on an entertainment concept that combines the mystique and wonder of the **Cirque** brand with the excitement of WhiteWater-supplied attractions to create a unique and spectacular water park venue. Guests can enjoy a spectacularly themed water park during the day then watch as **Cirque du Soleil** takes over the water park to provide entertainment for the evening.

WhiteWater took home four Brass Ring Awards — one for Best New Product: Water Park Ride/Attraction for **FusionFortress 17**, one for Best New Product Concept for **Orbiter**, one for Best New Product: Technology Applied to Amusements for **Vantage**, and one for Best Booth.

Although the **Meadowlands**, N.J., project has been in the works for many years, now the **Dreamworks Waterpark** is finally nearing completion. **ProSlide** is the sole waterslide supplier to the massive 225,000-square-foot indoor water park that will become one of the largest in the world when it opens in 2019. ProSlide promises to "smash records" with a 15-slide custom tower, a massive indoor **Tornado 60** and the world's first indoor hydromagnetic rocket waterslide that will encircle the water park. Sliders will also pass by a glass wall so shoppers in the mall can see the fun that everyone is hav-

ing inside as they whiz by on hydromagnetic rafts. The full complement of attractions is too much to list here, but expect to see many of the high-profile slides and rides for which ProSlide has become famous.

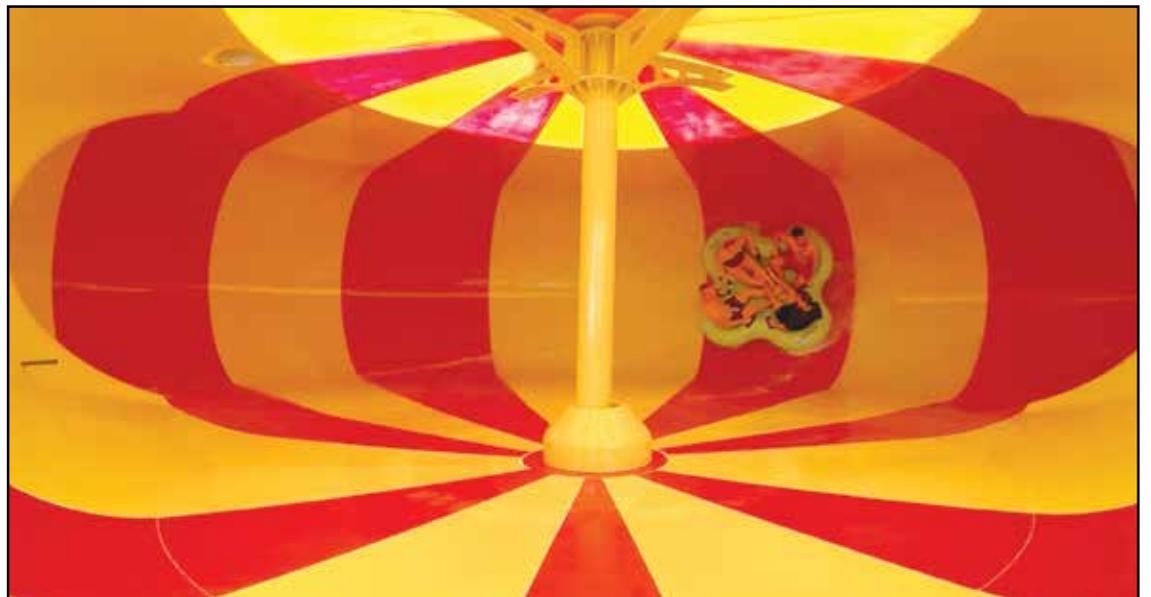
This past year ProSlide was involved with several high-profile projects including the new **Great Wolf Lodge** in Georgia and **Sound Waves** water park at the **Gaylord Opryland Hotel** in Nashville, Tenn. ProSlide developed two new slides for **Great Wolf Lodge** including a **FlyingSaucer 45** for which it garnered a Brass Ring award for Best Water Park Ride/Attraction — Class B (less than \$2 million).

Also new for 2018 was **Rally Racer** which took the mat racer slide and added rally points — openings in the slides where rides can see each other. The surprise is that by utilizing U-shaped flumes, riders can enter additional enclosed sections — something that was not possible with a traditional flat-bottom racing flume. **Whitecap Racer** was a big hit with patrons of the **Boardwalk at Hersheypark**.

Among the many projects that ProSlide has for 2019, three are for **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment**. **Ihu's Breakaway Falls** (SkyBox with SuperLoop) will debut at **Aquatica San Antonio**, **Kare Kare Curl** (TornadoWave) will be new at **Aquatica Orlando** and **Cutback Water Coaster** (RocketBlast/Flying Saucer 30) will thrill guests at **Water Country USA** in **Williamsburg**.

Aquatic Development Group has several projects in the works that will open in 2019.

► See **WATER**, page 10B



ProSlide's otherworldly Flying Saucer 45 has guests climbing the walls — literally.
COURTESY PROSLIDE

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►WATER

Continued from page 9B

SoundWaves, the highly-anticipated three-level, indoor/outdoor waterpark at the **Gaylord Opryland** resort, is currently underway. The indoor portion of the water park opened in December 2018 and the outdoor portion is scheduled to open this summer. The upscale water park promises to have a unique Nashville flair that sets it apart from other water parks. A 315,000-gallon wave pool will feature a giant LED movie screen that is bright enough to be visible day and night. Private cabanas, zoned adult-only recreation areas with an infinity bar and lounge as well as plenty of seating ensures the ultimate in guest comfort.

The \$300 million **Kartrite Waterpark Hotel** will be opening in 2019 on the same property as the **Montreign Resort Casino** in Thompson, N.Y., situated in the Catskill Mountains area.

The new tidal river at **Canobie Lake Park** opened for a preview late last year and will have its grand opening at the start of the 2019 season.

ADG is also working on future Alpine Coaster installations as well as the newer-style, all-fiberglass alpine slides.

Vortex Aquatic Structures International was showing off its latest **RiverQuest** family adventure raft ride that combines the thrills of a river rapids ride with those of a waterslide. The **RiverQuest** system features a fiberglass above-ground trough filled with water like a lazy river, but with a clear start and end point like a tube chute. The ride utilizes one-person circular rafts or two-person double circle rafts. There can be multiple paths allowing the guests to choose their adventure as they

progress along the course. Some of the paths can be immersive with tunnelled or interactive passageways. **DreamTunnel** and **DreamPassage** can wow guests with projection mapping, lighting, water and visual effects. Guests waiting in the queue can interact with those on the ride by setting off water features such as tip buckets and water streams. Depending on the slope of the layout, certain passages can be calm and relaxing while others can feature rapids and drops.

Weigand-Maelzer was really turning heads this year with the introduction of the **SlideWheel**. It took home the IAAPA 2018 Impact Award and Brass Ring Award for Major Ride/Attraction – Class A (over \$3 million). The massive rotating and pendulating waterslide made its debut at **Chimelong Water Park**, Guangzhou, China. Three more installations are planned for 2019.

The **SlideWheel**, which stands 79 feet tall and weighs 160 tons, was in development for five years. A full-scale prototype was built in the company's facility in Germany before delivery to **Chimelong Waterpark**. Installation and on-site testing took four months.

Riders sit in a circular four-person raft and upon entering the slide wheel experience disorientation as they slide in a back and forth motion through the 460-foot long enclosed fiberglass tube. The wheel rotates twice each minute and with the back-and-forth motion the total slide length varies, depending on the weight of the raft, from 850 to 985 feet. The experience lasts just under two minutes.

Weigand-Maelzer, originally made a name for itself with its stainless steel slides, the first of which is still in operation since



WhiteWater and Cirque du Soleil have developed a concept for a unique Cirque-like water park full of mystique and wonder. COURTESY WHITEWATER WEST

1981. Stainless steel is the company's forte, but it can also supply slides constructed of fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) or a combination of both. When compared to standard fiberglass slides, FRP offers a lighter weight slide with higher mechanical strength, superior corrosion and temperature resistant properties, good thermal insulation, and a smoother surface.

Weigand-Maelzer has also gotten into virtual-reality experiences but is taking it to the next level. Call it a 4-D experience if you will, the **Galaxy Edition VR** waterslide adds tactical experiences. As guests slide through the waterslide they will actually feel wind, asteroid particles, heating and cooling, as the lightweight VR goggles takes them through a launch sequence, past asteroid fields, ice planets, an engine breakdown and a fiery reentry.

Water Technology Inc. was unable to talk specifics for 2019, however WTI does have a relationship with **Kalarahi**, **SeaWorld** and **Great Wolf Lodge**. All three companies have projects in 2019.

Empex Watertoys offers an impressive collection of unique, colorful and creative water play devices. New for 2018 was the **Aquafarm** line of water toys. Themed to a waterplay barnyard, kids can have with water devices such as an **aquapiggy**, **aquaduckling**, **aquabunny** and **aquatruey**. **Tippin Tessie** features tiny little cows that tip and dump water onto the guests below.

Raft and tube suppliers, **CPI**, **Zebec** and **ZPro** continue to supply the water park industry with the inflatable products and mats needed to partake in many of the new and exciting

attractions the slide manufacturers continue to churn out. All three have also branched out to the amusement industry providing floatation collars for river raft rides as well as bumper car collars. After some sales and acquisitions, **ZPro** is now a subsidiary of **Woosung**, South Korea which manufactures inflatable boats.

Wibit Sports was on hand again with its line of inflatable floating obstacle/play courses. Founded in 1996, **Wibit** invented the floating water park industry and several of its items were on display in its booth. These tough PVC products are designed to last in a commercial environment and are suitable for all kinds of environments — freshwater, saltwater, and chlorinated water. One of the advantages of an inflatable floating obstacle course is that it can easily be moved and reinstalled. A competition swimming pool can be transformed into a floating obstacle course. When the lap lanes need to be cleared, the course can be floated off to the side or completely removed. Seasonal lakes or beach fronts can also disassemble and store the product during the off season.

Arihant Water Park Equipment of India has launched an aggressive marketing campaign in North America with its best price guarantee and longest warranty promise. The goal is to provide top quality rides for the lowest price.

Arihant unveiled two new rides at the expo, an activity waterplay structure named **Treasure Ship** and family raft ride called the **Bay Series** with **ThunderBay**, **TropicalBay** and **DragonBay**. Designed to operate with two- to six-passenger

tubes, the **Bay series** features a long, sloped, extra-wide U-shaped slide that is designed to maximize the side-to-side pendulum motion of the raft. Riders drop 20 feet into the side of the open flume, where the downhill slope and 180-degree turn can keep the raft rocking back and forth along the sides of the slide up to six times before finally ending in a splash pool.

Although **Aquakita** of **Neuvo Leon**, Mexico, is better known south of the border, the company has been servicing the U.S. and European markets for many years with offices in **Miami, Fla.**, and **Madrid, Spain**. The company offers a full complement of body slides and raft slides from gentle to extreme.

The water park industry continues to experience phenomenal growth with projects all over the world. Water parks have proven to be fun, safe attractions appealing to a wide demographic. Large resorts can be viable vacation destinations and smaller facilities appeal to local audiences.

Existing resorts have seen the benefits of adding waterpark amenities to their current offerings, and standalone parks are being built by both private developers and municipalities. City-owned facilities are becoming more elaborate as witnessed by the construction of the **Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark** in **Grand Prairie, Texas**.

As the water park industry continues to expand, ride manufacturers have responded with an increase in the variety of rides and attractions offered. With more places to go and more things to do once they get there, the water park consumer will be reaping the benefits for years to come.



Weigand-Maelzer's Slide Wheel won the IAAPA 2018 Impact Award and a Brass Ring Award for best new ride. COURTESY WIEGAND-MAELZER

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO

Seen at the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018



Bolliger & Mabillard showcased the dive coaster vehicle from Liseberg's Valkyria. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Members of the AT staff enjoy a seat in the car on display at the Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters Inc. booth, flanked by president Tom Rebbie and Janine Matscherz. AT/TIM BALDWIN



International Drive was dramatically lit up by the new Orlando StarFlyer. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Look Out was a new ride supplied by SBF/Visa and represented by Rides-4-U. Lines to ride were thick each day. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



IAAPA President and CEO Hal McEvoy takes a seat to check out the advancements of Extreme Engineering's new Cloud Coaster cart. (l-r) Matt Rehnstrom, McEvoy, and Philip Wilson. AT/TIM BALDWIN



A car from Zamperla's latest Thunderbolt model headed to Guatemala was on display. AT/TIM BALDWIN



The men of Skyline Attractions accepted their second place win for Best New Ride – Class A for Sky Warp (from left: Bill Wydra, Chris Gray, Jeff Pike and Evan Souliere). AT/TIM BALDWIN

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO 2018 – ORLANDO

Seen at the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018



Golden Ticket Award wins were highlighted on the backdrop of the Rocky Mountain Construction booth. AT/TIM BALDWIN



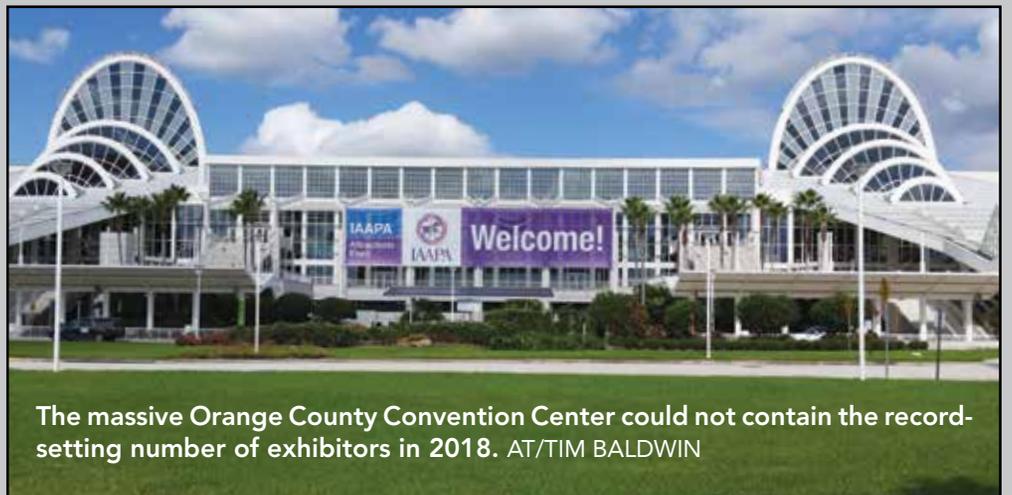
IAAPA officials gather with representatives from Dynamic Attractions and Chance Rides to accept the donation of a carousel horse created for IAAPA's new headquarters. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Joanne Dufault and Peter Loewen of Gould Manufacturing showed off their auto ride vehicles. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Larson International's Hunter Novotny and AT's Gary Slade stand with the model the two collaborated on. The model represents the expansion building for the National Roller Coaster Museum whose fundraising efforts are ongoing. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



The massive Orange County Convention Center could not contain the record-setting number of exhibitors in 2018. AT/TIM BALDWIN



A.R.M.'s Frenzy had riders swinging skyward in the Outdoor Attractions area. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



ProSlide Technologies proudly exhibited their many awards. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



Premier Rides takes the cake — or in this case, provides the cake. In a coaster car reveal for Busch Gardens Tampa's new Tigris, the coaster car was turned out to be chocolate cake which was sliced for attendees. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Board members of the National Roller Coaster Museum met before the opening of the trade show floor. AT/TIM BALDWIN